

Rising Need for IT Infrastructure Management Specialists

"There is serious dearth of skills in the IT sector"- that's a cliché!

"The area of infrastructure management is the worst hit talent shortage area" - now that's critical and valuable information!

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With the hardware deployment and support market in just Asia Pacific (excluding Japan) estimated to grow to USD 6 billion by 2010, the need for skilled professionals in the IT infrastructure management (read "hardware & networking") space is forecasted at 3,75,000 by 2009 itself. A recent IDC survey has also cautioned the industry about possible shortfall of nearly 1 lakh professionals.

Now, if you were setting out to seek a career in the IT field, the above reality should clearly point to a 'Big Opportunity'.

India has established its supremacy in the software development space, globally. While we continue to grow and strengthen our stature in the global IT market, the dampening news is the acute shortage of skilled manpower. However, the development of our software and the BPO sectors is highly dependent on our ability to support an ever-increasing population of installed hardware, networking and storage solutions at the back end.

CompTIA, the world's largest Professional Certification Provider for Information Technology also states that Networking has become the lifeline of most organizations irrespective of the industry they represent – be it healthcare, IT/ITeS, manufacturing, banking & finance, telecom, retail or e-governance initiatives by governments – professionals with Advanced Networking background are indeed in great demand.

IT and non-IT companies are grappling with the shortage of so-called 'Hardware & Networking' professionals – the individuals who ensure that people in organizations are forever connected; the systems robust and stable; and the network is hacker-proof.

A lot may have to do with the perception associated with this job, than with the functional aspect. Some myths that need to be broken are to do with remuneration and recognition.

The fact is that jobs in this space are as rewarding as in any other IT domain. The scarcity of talent, coupled with increasing emphasis of organizations on their

network security systems has made these professionals most sought after as they gain the recognition of 'Chief Architects'.

It is also important to understand that careers in the Infrastructure Management space start with very simple ones like a 'Desktop Support Technician' to all the way up to 'Chief Network Architect' or 'Chief Internetworking Specialist'.

The domain can hold varying interests of individuals, from simply finding solution as to 'how to install or maintain operating systems' to 'how do I remotely monitor the server farms located all the way in California, sitting right here in India?' This domain is particularly interesting to those who want to be in the IT industry but do not have the aptitude for putting in hours of software coding or development.

Career progression options exist for successful professionals in this space over and beyond just the domain.

If all of the above excites you and you have the passion for building networks, connecting circuits and identifying and correcting faults and errors, even if it meant 'doing it remotely' then you stand a great chance of making a career in the Infrastructure Management space.

There are many programs being offered from basic to advanced level by various training institutions. However, the career aspirant should be mindful of the fact that gaining knowledge in this sphere is about keeping in step with the latest technologies and working in an environment that simulates real life industry experience.

At NIIT, under the 'GlobalNet+' category, there are courses that can lead you to basic certifications (such as A+ or N+) as well as all the way to a one-year multi-disciplinary and comprehensive Networking Specialist. Training at NIIT is conducted in specially set up 'Three-in-one Labs', besides the usual class rooms and machine rooms.

So while, an NIIT student is poised to find a lucrative job in global IT organisations such as IBM, TCS, Wipro and HCL, he or she can very well be employed with organizations in the retail, banking, FMCG sectors as well, post doing a program such as NIIT GlobalNet+.

Remember, it is important to be relevant, industry ready and future proof, for a sustainable career. So go on, become the heart of the new age organization. Look at IT infrastructure management space to build a career.

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