



Connecting link THE LOWDOWN

Enterprise resource planning (ERP) software connects all departments and functions in a company through a common interface, facilitating the management of key internal and external resources. On the technical side, knowledge of ERP packages and database management is imperative. On the functional end, in-depth knowledge of the industry is necessary. Implementing an ERP system comprises of components like finances, human resources, supply chain management etc

■ CLOCKWORK

- 8.30am: Meeting with client
- 10.30am: Document details of the meeting and send to client and team
- 12.30pm: Lunch with CEO of client's company to report progress
- 1.30pm: Meet individual members of team to discuss specific issues
- 4pm: Conference call with a team
- 5.30pm: Meet software vendor
- 6.30pm: Check data migration reports
- 7.30pm: Call hardware vendor to discuss delivery schedule
- 8pm: Study process maps
- 10.30pm: Head home

■ THE PAYOFF

Both functional consultants and technical consultants can earn between **₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh** per annum with one to three years' of experience. Pay increases as you become more experienced

■ SKILLS/TRAITS

- Programming skills
- Innovative thinking ability
- Documentation skills
- Negotiation and people skills

■ GETTING THERE

For entry-level positions, functional con-

sultants should have worked in an industry at management position for at least three years and used an ERP system for at least a year. Technical consultants can be programmers in any of the major programming languages with at least one year's experience

■ INSTITUTES AND URLS

- Edith Cowan University, Australia www.ecu.edu.au
- Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta www.iimcal.ac.in
- Siemens Information Systems www.siemens.co.in
- Oracle University www.education.oracle.com
- ERP World, Jabalpur www.guruerp.com
- Lithan Genovate www.genovate.com

■ PROS AND CONS

- Lucrative career
- You will work with top management
- Long working hours
- Each successful implementation furthers your career
- Have to stay away from home

With a large number of ERP software installations already in place and new ones happening regularly, the need of ERP skilled resources is huge

Sunil Sirohi, vice president, Technology Services Organisation, NIIT Ltd, New Delhi

