



Explore a Career as a

# NETWORK SPECIALIST OR ENGINEER

## Target Occupation Profile

### What do Network Specialists and Engineers do?

Network specialists and engineers are responsible for everything related to data communication networks for businesses. They build, analyze, test, troubleshoot, maintain and evaluate existing network systems, such as local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), and internet systems or a segment of a network system. They may have the title of Computer Network Architect, Computer Network Support Specialist, or Network and Computer System Administrator. Solving an IT problem promptly is important because organizations depend on their network systems. Network specialists and engineers may assist the organization's computer users through phone, email or in-person.

### Network Specialists and Engineers are in demand in Cook County!

Cook County employment of network specialists and engineers is expected to increase through 2020. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the job outlook for these professionals is expected to grow faster than average.

### Training & Educational Opportunities

You will have many opportunities for employment as a network specialist or engineer, but first you will need to complete specific training and earn a certificate or degree. Your coursework will center around computer and information science, network security, database design, and computer programming, networking and system design. To keep up with changing technology, you will likely need to continue education and learning throughout your career.

### As a Network Specialist or Engineer you will:

- Add users to a network and manage network security
- Create plans and layouts for data networks
- Document network support activities
- Identify the causes of networking problems using diagnostic testing software and equipment
- Research and implement new network technologies
- Upgrade, troubleshoot and maintain hardware

# Network Specialist or Engineer

## Training Providers

There are many training providers available in Cook County to supply you with the training you need for a career as a network specialist or engineer.

To access a list of training providers for these occupations and many more, please visit [Illinoisworknet.com](http://Illinoisworknet.com) and select the 'Training and Credentials' menu option to view 'WIOA Approved Training Programs.'



## Types of Employers

There are many different types of companies that employ network specialists and engineers in Cook County, including:

- Consulting companies
- Government agencies
- Technology companies
- Universities

## Wages & Openings

### Network Specialist and Engineer Employment Data for Cook County

Average Starting Hourly Wage	\$26.72
Average Hourly Wage With Experience	\$44.34
Average Annual Job Openings Cook County	322
Average Annual Job Openings Chicago Metro	420

\*Source: Emsi, 2017.2

## Opportunities

After you receive your certificate or degree as a network specialist or engineer, you will have many opportunities for advancement. Some opportunities include:

- Computer and Information Systems Manager
- Computer Network Architect
- Computer Programmer
- Computer Systems Analyst



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[workforceboard.org](http://workforceboard.org)

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