Computer Security Specialist

Key Role
A computer security specialist’s main responsibility is to ensure the security and integrity and safety of an organization’s data. Individuals should have specific knowledge on wireless networking, cyber-space management and adapt their knowledge to stay ahead of cyber-attacks.

Quick Facts
• Median Pay: $75,000-$86,000 per year
• Minimum Education: Industry Certifications or Associate’s Degree
• Careers available in many industries (government, retail, manufacturing, data processing, and other information industries)

Job-Related Tasks
• Write, test, and maintain computer programs
• Plan, coordinate, and implement network security measures
• Work with traditional programs, object-oriented languages such as C++ and Java, as well as other computer-aided software engineering (CASE) tools and artificial intelligence shells to create and maintain programs
• Stay up-to-date on security trends and information technology
• Investigate and monitor security breaches

Personal Characteristics and Talents
• Excellent interpersonal skills
• Ability to concentrate on current tasks
• Customer service skills
• Computer skills
• Focus on multiple tasks at a time
• Analytical skills
• Ability to see and focus on the “big picture”
• Creativity in problem solving
• Able to work as part of a team

Recommended Education
• Technical certifications
• 2-year technical school degree or Associate’s Degree (Recommended not required)
• Practical experience in related field (computer programming)

Career Opportunities
• Computer Security Specialist
• System Programmer
• Computer Systems Designer
• Computer Consultant
• Data Communication Specialist