

Information Technology

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SECTION 1

Is This the Field for You?

Do you like puzzles? Maybe you are good at solving problems. Variety is exciting. It is fun to move from task to task. Perhaps you're a fast learner. Learning how computers work may sound interesting to you. Are any of these statements true for you? A career in information technology might be a good fit.

Chapter 1 ›

Inside the Industry

Information technology is called IT. People in IT use technology (tech) to solve problems. This career field has many roles. Workers design **software**. Some build computer networks. Others test, install, and repair **hardware** and software. IT workers also help people use their computers.





Data means information. This can be facts or numbers. In IT, data is digital. You can't touch or feel it. But you can see it on a computer. Keeping data safe is a part of IT. This is called **cybersecurity**.





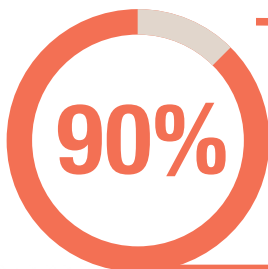
Technology is a big part of our lives. We use it every day. Every time you open the internet or pick up your phone, you are using technology. It is used in almost every industry. Technology is used to make movies. Teachers in schools use tech too. Hospitals and grocery stores run on it.

More than three million people work in IT in the U.S. Some people are in IT because they love computers. Many roles don't require a degree. IT can challenge your brain. Problem-solving is common. Opportunities to learn are everywhere. Read on to discover if IT is right for you.



Did You Know?

More than 90 percent of Americans have access to the internet.



INTERNET ACCESS

More than 3 million people work in IT in the U.S.

3 MILLION

5 billion people in the world own a mobile device.

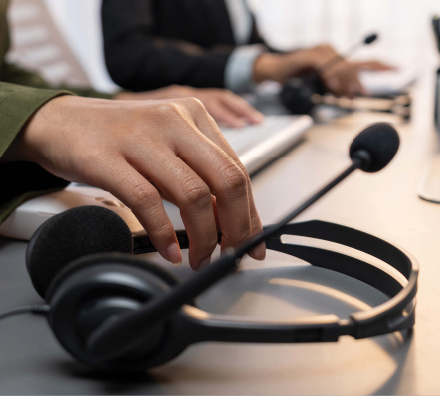


5,000,000,000



About one in four IT workers in the U.S. does not have a college degree.



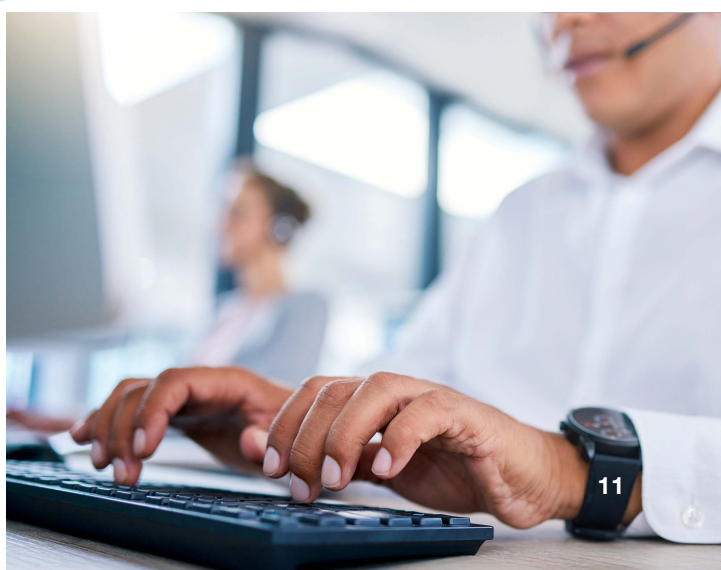


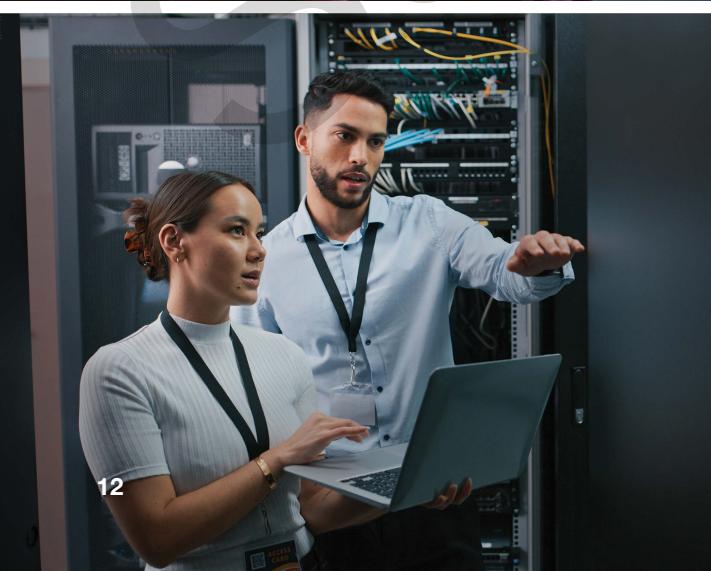
IT offers a wide range of jobs. They take place in many settings. Each type of place requires different roles. Here is a close-up look at a few scenes.

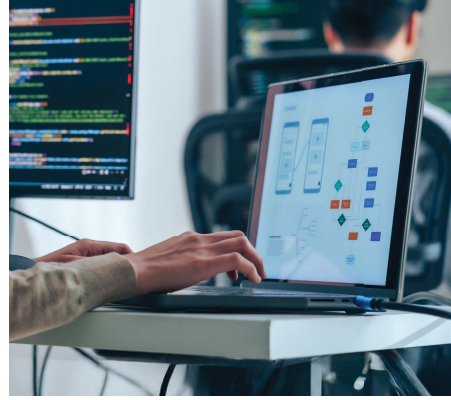
Scene #1: Call Center

A call center is an office. There are different types. In one type, people call if they need help with IT. **Help desk technicians** answer calls. They tell users how to fix problems. **Quality assurance analysts** listen to the calls. They show workers how to do better next time. This helps them improve. **IT project managers** oversee the team. They define goals and set processes. It is their job to make sure everything runs well.





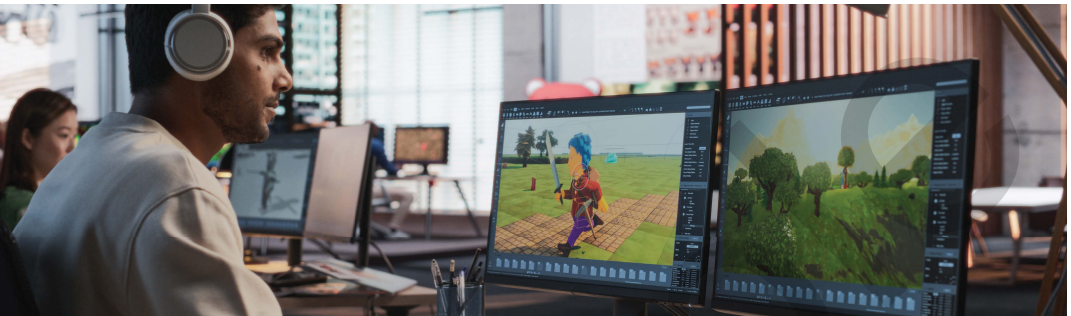
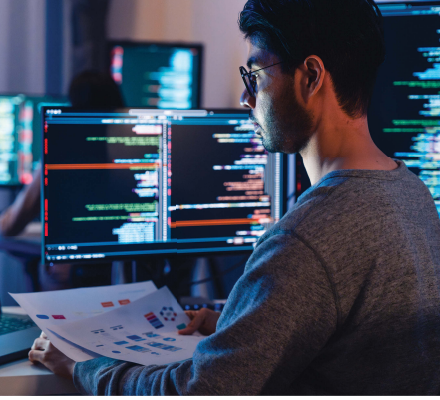




Scene #2: Software Company

A software company creates programs. People can use these programs on computers. **Systems administrators** fix errors. They keep the system running well. **Network engineers** design computer networks. Then they make sure the networks are working. **Hackers** might be trying to steal information. **Cybersecurity specialists** keep data safe. Their job is to look for risks.

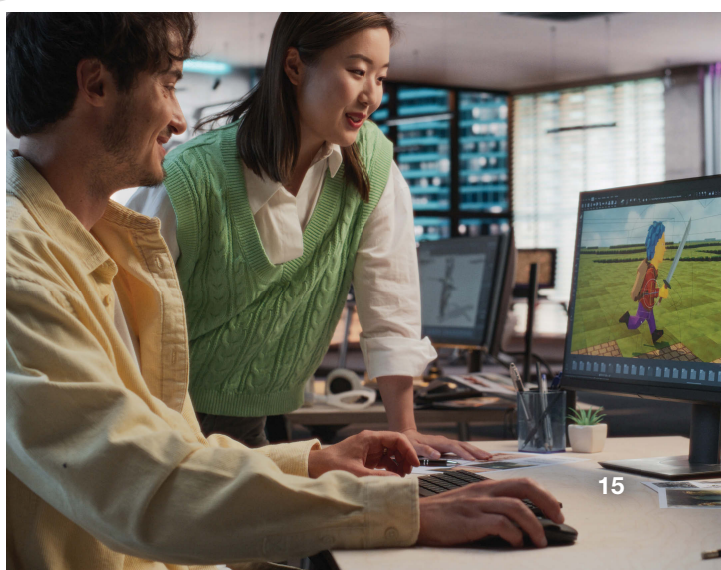




Scene #3: Video Game Company

Creating video games can take many workers. **Video game designers** come up with ideas. They design how the game looks and feels. **Software developers** write code. That is a list of instructions. It tells the computer what to do. The code brings the game to life. **App designers** create **apps**. Gamers can play these apps on a phone.





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