

IT Network Engineer

Mini BOP

MBP490 · October 2024

Introduction

IT network engineers design, install and update IT networks, provide technical support to users and correct faults. IT networks connect devices and users and allow software and data to be shared. Networks can be cabled, wireless or a combination of both.

Engineers also set up software accounts, user permissions and firewalls, monitor network performance and ensure that systems meet all technical, security and data standards. Some engineers also set up smart home networks for people working or running a business from home.

Trading issues

- IT Certify provides a package of CompTIA and Cisco courses suitable for anyone who wants to become a network engineer. The package costs around £1,600 and covers network concepts, infrastructure, network operation, security and troubleshooting. Go to <https://itcertify.co.uk/product/full-network-course-package/> for more information.
- The Diploma of Higher Education in Network Engineering is a four-year part-time online course provided by the Open University. The course costs around £3,640 per year and covers web technologies, Cisco networking and IT service management. Go to www.open.ac.uk/courses/computing-it/diplomas/diploma-in-network-engineering-w19# for more information.
- Network engineers can become approved partners of providers such as CISCO (www.cisco.com/site/us/en/partners/index.html) and Juniper (www.juniper.net/gb/en/partners.html). Go to www.network8.co.uk/ for an example.
- IT network engineers need to keep up to date with security and technical releases and updates. Microsoft publishes security updates and guides which provide information about virus threats and security vulnerabilities. Go to <https://msrc.microsoft.com/update-guide> for more information.
- Of the UK firms surveyed by Hiscox in 2023, 59% believed remote working had made them more vulnerable to cyberattacks and 48% had been the victim of an attack during the year (www.consultancy.uk/news/36570/businesses-in-uk-and-ireland-exposed-to-cyber-attacks-by-remote-work).
- Some engineers design, install and maintain smart home networks. They typically install cables, set up internet access and configure hardware and software. Wired networks are more expensive to

install than wireless, but are also more secure. In 2024, the average fee charged for a home network installation in the UK was £175 (www.checktrade.com/blog/cost-guides/home-network-installation-cost/).

- Many IT network engineers join a trusted trader scheme to help them find clients. Examples of schemes include TrustMark (www.trustmark.org.uk/business/information-guidance/join-trustmark) and the Which? Trusted Trader scheme (<https://for-traders.which.co.uk/join>).
- Specialist insurance for IT network engineers is available from insurers and brokers such as Markel Direct (www.markeluk.com/business-insurance/network-engineers-insurance) and Suited (www.suited.insure/business-insurance/it-contractor-insurance).

Useful resources

BCS, The Chartered Institute for IT is a membership body representing IT practitioners.
www.bcs.org

Network World is an online resource for IT networking and infrastructure professionals.
www.networkworld.com/news

Computer Weekly is an online journal and resource featuring IT industry news, regulatory updates, market analysis and expert comment.
www.computerweekly.com

TechRepublic is an online resource for IT professionals that includes blogs, forums and webcasts on IT issues.
www.techrepublic.com

Mac News and Mac Software News include information about hardware and software upgrades and new releases.
www.macworld.com/mac/news

DISCLAIMER While all reasonable efforts have been made, the publisher makes no warranties that this information is accurate and up-to-date and will not be responsible for any errors or omissions in the information nor any consequences of any errors or omissions. Professional advice should be sought where appropriate.

Cobweb Information Ltd, YBN, 7 & 8 Delta Bank Road, Metro Riverside Park, Gateshead, NE11 9DJ.
Tel: 0191 461 8000 Website: www.cobwebinfo.com