

What does it mean to be a COMPUTER SCIENTIST (IT technician)?

In the 21st century, we are all dependent on computers to live and do our jobs. Yet, many people do not understand how computers work, and when things go wrong they look to IT technicians to help. IT technicians are an essential part of any company.

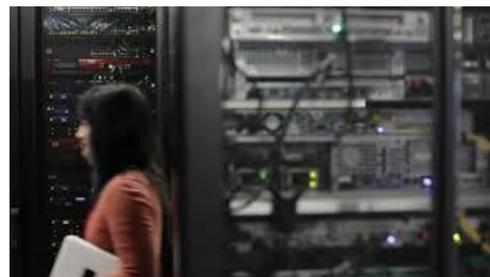
The Key Facts

- ◆ As Cambodia develops there are more and more companies starting up in the country. The majority of these companies will all be relying on computers to function and that means there will be many jobs available for IT technicians.
- ◆ Since all types of companies need computer technicians it means you could work in most sectors (fashion, banking, education) and combine your computer skills with other interests that you have.
- ◆ If you were to specialize in programming you could join Asia's fast-growing technology industry which is gaining much recognition worldwide, with many big companies based all over the continent.
- ◆ Normally an IT technician would have regular hours, a secure job and a good salary- however there is not often much opportunity for promotion within a company that does not specialise in technology.

Training

IT technicians must have specialized training in computer science- a university degree is essential. You can study it in any university, for example the Royal University of Phnom Penh where scholarships are available. Afterwards, you will probably begin your career with an internship or apprenticeship in a company.

IT skills are essential, but certain characteristics are very important, too. You must have good problem-solving abilities, intellectual curiosity, imagination and creativity. On the other hand, you must also have good analytical capabilities, be able to synthesise and summarise information and data and be methodical in your work.



What does the job involve?

IT technicians must put computing equipment and networks in an office, assemble the hardware and make sure the software is installed correctly. They must also be aware of new programmes and technologies, their advantages, disadvantages and costs, and whether or not they could be useful to the company. If they start using new technologies, they will need to prepare reports on how successful they have been and look for solutions if there are problems.

Initiative

IT technicians must be able to take the initiative- that means doing things for yourself without being told what to do by someone else. They need to look for ways they can use technology to improve things in the company and present them to their boss.

People Skills

IT technicians need to be able to communicate and maintain good relationships with almost everyone in the company, since everyone relies on computers to work. Sometimes people will be frustrated when technology does not work, but IT technicians must remain calm.

Assistance

Often computers have problems or people don't know how to use them correctly- it is then the IT technician's job to help. You may also be able to teach your colleagues some IT skills that they don't know.

Work Environment

IT technicians generally work in a team with other computer technicians as well as the management of the company to plan new ideas for ways to use technology to improve the company. They will work in an office with each other.



The Disadvantages

- ◆ When things go wrong with computers it is likely that you will be the only one with the skills to fix the problem and everyone will rely on you. Therefore you might feel a lot of pressure and stress.
- ◆ Similarly, you may have to work late hours and on weekends to get the system working properly again if there is a breakdown.
- ◆ Computer technicians often spend long hours in front of a computer with little contact with other people, so if you are quite a sociable person this can be difficult.

The Advantages

- ◆ The skills that IT technicians have are so important, and you can use them to improve your personal life, too. Since not many people have these skills it means that it will be easier to find a good job.
- ◆ It is a very well-paid job, and you can work in very pleasant offices.
- ◆ There are opportunities to work in many different industries, which makes it a more flexible job than most others.
- ◆ They are often very secure jobs where you can start long-term projects and develop a company for many years.