JOB PROFILE One ™

Job Situation
Business environment, offices. Sometimes crisis driven. Teamwork. Reporting to Information Systems Manager.

Weekly Hours of Work
40

Overtime
 In emergencies

Monthly Salary
$4,700

Student Loan – Owing
$30,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment
$390

Duties
Consult with staff and managers. Analyse problems and requirements. Plan solutions. Plan and implement computer security systems. Write program specifications. Test and implement programs. Train users. Report to management.

Prospects
Management, group lead, consulting

Job Title
Computer Systems Analyst

National Occupational Classification (NOC)
2171

Job Description
Computer systems analysis is one of the fastest changing jobs on the scene. In the 1980's, when businesses were first computerizing their operations, analysts worked with mainframe technologies. Now, analysts need a whole new set of skills to build local area networks (LANs) with desktop computers and knit together diverse hardware and software applications to suit a client's requirements.

Your challenge is to identify needs or problems and analyse the situation to determine which areas can be solved with computer technology. Then you design the solution and work with a team to implement it. Sometimes it needs to be done yesterday, because when computer systems are malfunctioning, everything is held up. It is challenging and sometimes it feels like you have hit a wall with no solution in sight but you always have prided yourself in your ability to keep trying. It seems like a tall order, but not so different from the old days in the electronics repair shop! Your day-to-day work is in maintenance and upgrading core systems, such as networks and databases, as directed by the manager. Analysts have to be good with people, because you spend a lot of time listening to people who don't understand computers explain what they need the computers to do. You need to do a lot of creative/critical thinking to keep the client satisfied. You also coach employees in using new systems. Sometimes you direct programmers or technicians, so really good communications skills are as important as all the technical knowledge.

Because the job requirements change as quickly as the technology, which is overnight sometimes, analysts who hang in never stop pursuing their education. Courses, seminars, reading technical journals and networking is a way of life for you. Almost every job will involve new technology or software, and many companies offer continuous training opportunities. Analysts who keep their skills current take on bigger challenges and earn bigger salaries as they accumulate work experience.