



Job Situation

Office, meeting rooms. Computer, phone, and fax. Teamwork. Reporting to executives. Deadlines. On call for overtime.

Weekly Hours of Work

50

Overtime

As required

Monthly Salary

\$4,800

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$280

Duties

Analyze requirements for the application of computer technology. Design and develop computer languages and software. Supervise the work of programmers, technologists, and technicians.

Prospects

Other senior management positions. Consulting. Self-employment.

Job Title

Senior Engineer

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2173

Job Description

You accepted the position as the senior design engineer on a relatively small and straightforward project because its smallness and straightforwardness presents you with an opportunity to try something out without a lot of complications. You think you have a new language for embedded computer technology that is going to turn the industry on its head. In fact you know you do, because when you explained it to your friend the programmer genius, he just looked at you with his eyes wide open and his head slowly nodding. From him, this is the equivalent of a scream of delight.

For the rest of the week you will be in meetings. First, with the clients to get them to be as specific as possible about exactly what they want and exactly how they hope to use the software. This is very important to you. Many people still don't seem to understand that computers can't think. If people aren't clear about what they need or what they are going to do, you can't tell the computer, no matter how brilliant the language is.

Fortunately, you have found that sometimes if you talk to people long enough you will understand what they need better than they do. Then you'll have a big round table discussion with the section leaders to establish some basic timeframes, start to rough out the flow charts and make sure everyone knows what they're doing. From then on you intend to start enjoying yourself.

Now that your genius buddy is involved in this project, your satisfaction is guaranteed. Finding the right people is part of your job, and you need someone who really speaks your language to head up the programming section. This should cut you some time to read the stack of technical information on your desk. You still love this business—the knotty technical problems, the tedious details, the astounding possibilities, the crazy people and all.