

The Top IT Skills in Demand in 2010

According to Computerworld's 2010 Forecast Survey, less than 20 percent of the 312 information technology executives polled stated that they intended to increase IT head count in the next 12 months, compared to 26 percent in 2009. Furthermore, nearly 20 percent stated that they planned to decrease their IT head count. Companies who will be hiring are seeking to hire in key areas, and will favor candidates with skills that span multiple disciplines.

Survey respondents with intentions to hire IT workers in 2010 identified six types of skills most in demand:

Top 6 IT Skills in Demand
1. Programming/Application Development
2. Help Desk/Technical Support
3. Networking
4. Project Management
5. Security
6. Business Intelligence

Source: Computerworld, Dec 2009

The skill-set with the highest demand is programming/application development, largely due to companies' need to meet demand for new systems and projects. Companies are seeking applicants with specialized programming skills, as well as application developers who can double as business analysts and project managers.

Help desk/technical support will be in high demand as general IT business conditions improve; according to Vice President for North America at Dice Holdings, Inc., Tom Silver, "as the business starts to improve, companies hire more people, which increases demand for help desk staff".

Demand for networking is also increasing, likely as a result of the growing complexity of networks. Additionally, several companies are making increased use of video and voice over their IP networks, thus there will be a need for network, voice, and radio engineers to handle upgrades and ensure compliance with federal mandates.

Project management is an area of growing importance which provides opportunities for technology professionals to build their careers; "professionals who understand technology and how it fits in the overall business strategy are the ones who add the most value, get paid more, and have the most fulfilling careers", according to Silver.

Security is an ever-important skill due to network fraud and security infringement, thus many companies are seeking people with cybersecurity skills, including people with experience in computer engineering and digital controls to help upgrade outdated systems.

Finally, business intelligence was ranked as the sixth most important skill by survey respondents. Business intelligence has traditionally been understood as a system that collects historical data and provides tools to analyze it. In addition to the basics, companies are interested in real-time intelligence that relies on people entering data into a wiki and updating users almost instantaneously.

On the Web: <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/122909-forecast-2010-6-hottest-skills.html?hpg1=bn>

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