

# Occupation codes of practice for Tier 2

This section has the codes of practice for skilled occupations under Tier 2 of the points-based system. The information on related job titles and examples of job tasks is taken from Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) 2000 and may not be fully up-to-date.

#### Section J: Information and communication

This page gives the SOC codes for the information and communication sector.

Choose the SOC code that is most relevant to the job you are looking to fill, and then you will be taken to a page giving you more information on the skill level, appropriate salary rate and how to meet the resident labour market test.

Appropriate salary rates are based on a 37½ hour working week, unless otherwise stated. Salaries should be pro-rated for other working patterns.

From 31 March 2009 all jobs in this sector **must** be advertised in Jobcentre Plus (or JobCentre Online for jobs in Northern Ireland) and **at least one other** listed method to pass the resident labour market test.

#### 1. Skilled jobs

All jobs in these occupations are at NVQ or SVQ level 4 or above. Sponsors can issue certificates of sponsorship for any jobs in these occupations:

SOC Code	SOC code description	Related job titles	Examples of job tasks
1136	Information and communication technology managers	Computer manager Computer operations manager Data processing manager IT manager Systems manager Telecom manager	<ul> <li>plans, organises and directs the information and communication technology resources of an organisation</li> <li>liaises with user group representatives to clarify requirements and development needs</li> <li>implements feasibility studies to guide the development and direction of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems</li> <li>plans work schedules and</li> </ul>

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			assigns tasks to ICT staff
			<ul> <li>advises on the uses and capabilities of ICT services</li> <li>co-ordinates the introduction of new ICT systems or the modification of existing systems</li> </ul>
2131	IT strategy and planning professionals	Computer consultant Software consultant	<ul> <li>liaises with clients in order to analyse business procedure, clarify customer requirements and to define the scope of existing software, hardware and network arrangements</li> <li>undertakes feasibility studies incorporating costs, benefits, staffing implications and training needs, and presents proposals to clients to introduce new IT solutions or to modify existing systems</li> <li>communicates the impact of emerging technologies to clients and advises upon the potential introduction of such technology</li> <li>provides advice and assistance in the procurement, provision, delivery, installation, maintenance and use of information systems and their environments</li> </ul>
2132	Software professionals	Analyst programmer Computer programmer Software engineer Systems analyst Systems designer	<ul> <li>examines existing software and determines requirements for new/modified systems through consultation with clients and staff</li> <li>undertakes feasibility studies of software solutions through specifying and costing functional details, equipment, staffing and operational procedures</li> <li>investigates, plans, designs and develops software solutions within stated constraints</li> <li>installs, implements and maintains the reliability and security of software systems as business functions</li> <li>writes operational documentation and provides subsequent support and training for users</li> </ul>
3131	IT operations technicians	Computer operator Database manager IT technician Network technician Systems administrator Web master	installs, monitors and supports area networks and accompanying hardware and software  analyses performance and makes recommendations to enhance reliability, usability, security and other aspects of system performance  provides guidance to users on hardware, software and network operations  identifies problems, agrees remedial action and undertakes emergency network maintenance if required

administration documentation and configuration records
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## 1136 Information and communication technology managers

This page explains the skill level and appropriate salary rate for information and communication technology managers, and tells you how to meet the resident labour market test.

#### 1. Skill level

All jobs in this occupation code are at or above NVQ or SVQ level 4.

### 2. Appropriate salary rate

The job must be paid the minimum salary below, which is derived either from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) or, where alternative salary data is available, from an alternative code of practice.

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: No Other code of practice: Yes

Sponsors must select the most appropriate job description from the table below. The job title need not be an exact match:

Possible job	Job description	Minimum
title(s)		rate
IT director or IS director	Board level function carrying responsibility for all aspects of IT infrastructure, application and operation. Primarily covers appointments in large companies with a significant investment in IT plus internet based businesses where a Chief technical officer at director level is required.	£83,200
MIS manager or IT manager	Plans and co-ordinates the organisation's information technology services within agreed budget levels.	£44,700
Systems development manager	Plans, organises and controls the development of new and revised systems and procedures.	£41,600
Computer services manager	Responsible for operations, technical support and network services within medium to large installations.	£43,600
Software manager or programming manager	Plans, organises and controls the writing of programmes (software) to defined standards. Provides programming resources to both operations (maintenance) and systems (development). This group also includes software managers engaged in defence and real time systems.	£40,500
Operations manager	Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the computer installation together with associated functions such as data control and data preparation.	£41,600
Technical support manager	Responsible for all aspects of systems software, network and hardware configurations. Incorporates technical planning across these functions.	£39,000
Communica- tions network manager	Responsible for the installation and maintenance of all local and wide area networks. Advises on all technical aspects regarding communications.	£41,600

Office systems manager or helpdesk manager and helpdesk manager manager and helpdesk manager manager and helpdesk manager ma			
business analyst and objectives for a significant part of the business system within an organisation. Liases with senior management and systems management to determine the effectiveness of systems.  Business analyst and systems management to determine the effectiveness of systems.  Responsible for defining the commercial objectives of computer systems. May action some prototyping within user services functions.  Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of all projects within a development studio on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for all projects within a game franchise, on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of several production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained across different tormats.  Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of multiple projects within a game franchise, on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of several production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained. Keeps an overview of the entire process from start to finish.  Responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of a game, on time and within budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of several production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained. Keeps an overview of the entire process from start to finish.  Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of a game on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of several production teams. Work of the production team, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained. Keeps an overview of the entire process from start to finish.  Manages testers and lead testers. Responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Responsible for the programming team acr	manager or helpdesk manager	office systems manager would have responsibility for the operations, training, development and support of all office based systems such as word-processor, spreadsheets and data base applications. PC programmer technicians, support analysts and network technicians would normally report to this manager.	
computer systems. May action some prototyping within user services functions.  Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of all projects within a development studio on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for all projects and co-ordinates work of all production teams. Video games)  Executive producer (computer and video games)  Producer (computer and video games)  Producer (computer and video games)  Ad manager (computer and video games)  Design director (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  At director (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  At director (computer and video games)  At director (computer and video games)  At director (computer and video games)  Responsible for the portal look and feel of the game. Devises the game's visual style and directs the production of all visual material throughout the game is development. May produce much of the initial artwork th	business	objectives for a significant part of the business system within an organisation. Liases with senior management and systems management to determine the effectiveness	£43,600
director (computer and video games)  Executive projects within a development studio on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for all projects and co-ordinates work of all production teams.  Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of multiple projects make co-ordinates work of several production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained across different formats.  Producer (computer and video games)  Producer (computer and video games)  An anager (computer and video games)  Design director (computer and video games)  Design director (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it		computer systems. May action some prototyping within	£31,200
Executive producer (computer and video games)  Producer (computer and video games)  Producer (computer and video games)  Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of multiple projects within a game franchise, on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of several production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained across different formats.  Responsible for ensuring the successful delivery of a game, on time and within budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of the production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained. Keeps an overview of the entire process from start to finish.  Manages testers and lead testers. Responsible for handling personnel issues, equipment needs, and costs incurred by their teams.  Manages the Game Designer team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Manages the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Responsible for the programming team across multiple projects and all technology across the development company.  £20,000  £20,000  £20,000  £20,000  £20,000	director (computer and	projects within a development studio on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for all	£50,000
(computer and video games)  QA manager (computer and video games)  Design director (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Leads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  Art director (compu	Executive producer (computer and	projects within a game franchise, on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of several production teams, making sure that the quality and vision of the game	£40,000
(computer and video games)  Design director (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Lead stipe game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Lead stipe game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Lead stipe games bear consists of and how it plays.  Lead the Game Designer team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Lead the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays across multiple projects.  Eads the Games Design team responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays.	(computer and	game, on time and within budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for a project and co-ordinates work of the production team, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained. Keeps an overview	£28,000
director (computer and video games)  Lead designer (computer and video games)  Technical director (computer and video games)  Technical director (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  Art director (computer and video games)	(computer and	handling personnel issues, equipment needs, and costs	£25,000
Lead designer (computer and video games)  Technical director (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  Art director (computer	director (computer and	devising what a game consists of and how it plays across	£50,000
Technical director (computer and video games)  Programming manager (computer and video games)  Art director (computer a	Lead designer (computer and		£30,000
Programming manager (computer and video games)  Art director (computer and video games)  Responsible for the overall look and feel of the game.  Devises the game's visual style and directs the production of all visual material throughout the game's development.  May produce much of the initial artwork themselves, setting creative and technical standards and also	Technical director (computer and	projects and all technology across the development	£60,000
(computer and video games)  Devises the game's visual style and directs the production of all visual material throughout the game's development.  May produce much of the initial artwork themselves, setting creative and technical standards and also	Programming manager (computer and	manages the team of game programmers responsible for creating all the computer code which runs and controls a game. Manages the software engineering of a game from	£50,000
	(computer and	Devises the game's visual style and directs the production of all visual material throughout the game's development. May produce much of the initial artwork themselves, setting creative and technical standards and also	£45,000

Art manager or lead artist (computer and video games)	Manages Graphic Artists that create the visual elements of a game, such as characters, scenery, objects, vehicles, surface textures, clothing, props, and even user interface components. Ensures art and animation team work to schedule and budget. Works closely with the programming team to ensure all art and animation assets produced can be easily imported into the game engine.	£35,000
Outsource manager (computer and video games)	Responsible for ensuring successful delivery of elements of a game that have been subcontracted, on time and budget. Controls financial and other resources needed for outsourced elements of a project and co-ordinates the work of the sub contracted developer, making sure that the quality and vision of the game is maintained.	£25,000

[Sources: Salary Services Ltd IT Salary Survey 2008, The Independent Game Developers Association – TIGA, ]

#### 3. Resident labour market test

Jobcentre Plus (or JobCentre Online for jobs in Northern Ireland): Yes

National newspapers: Yes

Professional journals: Yes, in any one of the following publications:

• Computer Weekly

Computing Magazine

• PC Pro

• Develop Magazine (games jobs only)

• Edge Magazine (games jobs only)

Milkround: Yes, for jobs for new graduates or internships only.

You do not need to advertise the post in Jobcentre Plus if you have carried out a milkround provided you have also used at least one other method in the code **and** you have advertised on one of the following specific websites:

www.jobs.ac.uk

www.milkround.com

• www.prospects.ac.uk

Internet: Yes, on any one of the following websites:

• www.cwjobs.co.uk

• <a href="https://www.developmag.com">www.developmag.com</a> (games jobs only)

• <a href="https://www.edge-online.com">www.edge-online.com</a> (games jobs only)

• <a href="https://www.gamesindustry.biz">www.gamesindustry.biz</a> (games jobs only)

www.reed.co.uk

www.totaljobs.com

www.monster.co.uk

• www.jobserve.com

www.jobsite.co.uk

www.fish4.co.uk/iad/jobs

• jobs.guardian.co.uk

jobs.independent.co.uk

- jobs.telegraph.co.uk
- jobs.timesonline.co.uk

You can use recruitment agencies and head-hunters to help you. The agency or headhunter may carry out a resident labour market test on your behalf, as specified in this code of practice and the guidance for Tier 2 Sponsors.

# 2131 IT strategy and planning professionals

This page explains the skill level and appropriate salary rate for IT strategy and planning professionals, and tells you how to meet the resident labour market test.

#### 1. Skill level

All jobs in this occupation code are at or above NVQ or SVQ level 4.

## 2. Appropriate salary rate

The job must be paid the minimum salary below, which is derived either from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) or, where alternative salary data is available, from an alternative code of practice.

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: No Other code of practice: Yes

Sponsors must select the most appropriate job description from the table below. The job title need not be an exact match:

Possible job title(s)	Job description	Minimum rate
Management consultant or systems consultant	Jobs predominantly advertised by management and major IT system consultancies. The main function is one of high level consultancy at board level and would cover the selection and assessment of business systems being employed by an organisation. Individual areas could include an auditing of systems, staffing structures, etc.	£67,600
Projects manager	Responsible for the design, development and implementation of systems covering one or more business functions. Would typically have budgetary control over the delivery of projects.	£39,000
Web designer	Responsible for the design and implementation of internet products. This would include page design, database design and software structure, together with the system processes involved for updating and maintaining the web content. Would normally have at least twelve months to two years service of structuring and designing web products with a background in development / programming of relevant object oriented software.	£26,000
Senior games designer (computer and video games)	Responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays. Plans and defines all the elements and components of a game: its setting; structure; rules; story flow; characters; the objects, props, vehicles, and devices available to the characters; interface design; and modes of play. May supervise other games designers as part of a project team.	£27,000
Games designer (computer and video games)	Responsible for devising what a game consists of and how it plays. Plans and define all the elements and components of a game: its setting; structure; rules; story flow; characters; the objects, props, vehicles, and devices available to the characters; interface design; and modes of play. May be the originator of the game's concept or	£20,000

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premise. More often, most of the core ingredients are already defined and the Game Designer must decide how to create the best game using these elements, within the constraints of budget and timescale. The design process might be shared between a number of different designers.

[Sources: Salary Services Ltd IT Salary Survey 2008, The Independent Game Developers Association - TIGA]

#### 3. Resident labour market test

Jobcentre Plus (or JobCentre Online for jobs in Northern Ireland): Yes

National newspapers: Yes

Professional journals: Yes, in any one of the following publications:

Computer WeeklyComputing Magazine

PC Pro

Develop Magazine (games jobs only)Edge Magazine (games jobs only)

Milkround: Yes, for jobs for new graduates or internships only.

You do not need to advertise the post in Jobcentre Plus if you have carried out a milkround provided you have also used at least one other method in the code **and** you have advertised on one of the following specific websites:

www.jobs.ac.uk

www.milkround.com

• www.prospects.ac.uk

Internet: Yes, on any one of the following websites:

• www.cwjobs.co.uk

www.developmag.com (games jobs only)

• <a href="https://www.edge-online.com">www.edge-online.com</a> (games jobs only)

www.gamesindustry.biz (games jobs only)

www.reed.co.uk

www.totaljobs.com

www.monster.co.uk

www.jobserve.com

www.jobsite.co.uk

www.fish4.co.uk/iad/jobs

• jobs.guardian.co.uk

• jobs.independent.co.uk

• jobs.telegraph.co.uk

• jobs.timesonline.co.uk

You can use recruitment agencies and head-hunters to help you. The agency or headhunter may carry out a resident labour market test on your behalf, as specified in this code of practice and the guidance for Tier 2 Sponsors.

# 2132 Software professionals

This page explains the skill level and appropriate salary rate for software professionals, and tells you how to meet the resident labour market test.

#### 1. Skill level

All jobs in this occupation code are at or above NVQ or SVQ level 4.

### 2. Appropriate salary rate

The job must be paid the minimum salary below, which is derived either from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) or, where alternative salary data is available, from an alternative code of practice.

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: No Other code of practice: Yes

Sponsors must select the most appropriate job description from the table below. The job title need not be an exact match:

Possible job title(s)	Job description	Minimum rate
Project leader or senior systems analyst	Responsible for the design, development and maintenance of a significant part of a major system, or as a project leader with control of one project. For the duration of the project, may have analysts, programmers, developers or analyst programmers reporting to this function.	£41,600
Systems analyst	Responsible for the technical design, functional processes and implementation of a system or part of a system. Some control of development and maintenance functions will be evident.	£31,200
Senior test analyst	Responsible for testing the overall functionality of systems. Would liaise with system and development groups to determine the business and technical functions that need to be tested. In order to achieve this it may be necessary to manage the setting up of business models, databases, volume input / output and simulated maximum transaction rates. It may also be necessary to simulate system failures in order to assess system resilience.	£33,200
Test analyst	Responsible for testing the functionality of systems. This would involve testing that the business and technical functions work as specified. In order to achieve this it may be necessary to set up business models, databases, volume input / output and simulated maximum transaction rates. It may also be necessary to simulate system failures in order to assess system resilience.	£28,000
Systems auditor	Responsible for the implementation and verification of procedures designed to ensure that the integrity of access to computer systems and associated data is maintained. This includes assessing risk factors in relation to system modifications and the procedures used in using and	£34,600

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	operating the systems.	
Training officer or lecturer	Training functions cover both applications, software training and lecturers employed in both the private and public sector.	£36,300
Technical author	Responsible for liaising with all areas of system design and development in order to collect information to produce user documentation. Users may be application or software users. This role also includes the generation of on line help forms.	£32,200
Development team leader	With in-depth experience of programming and development functions, this function would have overall control of the technical aspects of delivering the complete systems as defined by the business. Would normally have other developers, analyst programmers or programmers reporting to this position during the life of a project.	£41,600
Senior systems developer	This position requires in-depth expertise and experience in a combination of database design, programme structure and underlying system architecture in order to develop systems using software skills such as C/C++, Visual Basic, Oracle, Ingres, Sybase etc. Web developers require a similar background but with related software skills such as Java, Perl etc.	£37,400
Systems developer	This position requires expertise in a combination of database design, programme structure and underlying system architecture in order to develop systems using software skills such as C/C++, Visual Basic, Oracle, Ingres, Sybase etc. Web developers require a similar background but with related software skills such as Java, Perl etc.	£31,200
Analyst programmer	Responsible for the system design and programming of individual modules within a project. Detailed programming work would be evident at this level. In general this job refers to general legacy mainframe skills, but it is still used in a number of public sector organisations to encompass all development that involves a design and programming element.	£29,100
Graduate developer	This job function is used to classify all programmers and developers who essentially have less than six months commercial experience of programming. This includes new graduates in IT or related technology degrees. As this job requires less than six months experience, you cannot sponsor migrants in the ICT – Long Term Staff subcategory for this type of post. We expect a Resident Labour Market Test to be carried out for all Graduate Developer positions.	£22,300
Senior programmer	Responsible for the detailed programming from specifications of major modules within a project. Testing of the logical accuracy and correct interfaces to other modules is part of this process. Would have a detailed knowledge of at least one programming language and operating system. May supervise other programmers as part of a project team.	£31,200
Programmer	Responsible for the detailed programming and testing of individual programmes or routines within an overall project.	£26,000
Systems architect or systems planner	Responsible for the detailed design and sizing of the installation architecture with regards to hardware, software and networks. Would have knowledge of design methods and be capable of directing system programmers. Would be expected to have several years in depth experience of specific operating systems, databases and network.	£46,800

Systems programmer	With a detailed knowledge of specified software products, would provide support and technical expertise to systems, programming and operations groups. Would be responsible for system performance within designated areas. In general this job title applies to mainframe operating systems and related database and network software.	£31,200
Senior software engineer	With an in depth knowledge of real time or embedded software and associated hardware this position would be responsible for the design and programming of related operating software. Would liaise with Electronic Design Engineers to ensure that the functionality met specifications. Employed mainly in the electronics, computer, aviation and defence industries. May be responsible for other Software Engineers within a project team. Would typically have expertise in software such as Ada, C/C++, Pascal etc.	£37,400
Software engineer	With experience of real time or embedded software and associated hardware this position would be responsible for the design and programming of related operating software. Would liaise with Electronic Design Engineers to ensure that the functionality met specifications. Employed mainly in the electronics, computer, aviation and defence industries. May be responsible for other Software Engineers within a project team. Would typically have expertise in software such as Ada, C/C++, Pascal etc.	£30,100
Software communicat- ions engineer	With an in depth knowledge of real time embedded software and communications hardware this position would be responsible for the design and programming of related operating software. Would liaise with communication Design Engineers to ensure that the functionality met specifications. Employed predominantly in the communications industry.	£36,400
Software test engineer	With a full understanding of specific operating systems, application software and network configurations, this position is responsible for ensuring adequate testing of software products or services prior to release for general use. Would document and agree any deviations from originally agreed specifications.	£31,200
Operations analyst	Responsible for defining and supporting operational procedures to ensure the correct operation and recovery of hardware/software systems. Liaises between operations and systems to define system testing and implementation procedures. Would normally have had experience as a senior operator within a specific hardware/software configuration. The jobs included in this grade cover all levels of Operations Analyst.	£27,000
Hardware engineer	This job function primarily covers personnel employed by hardware vendors and computer maintenance companies. Responsibilities include identification of hardware failures and subsequent correction by repair or replacement.	£20,800
Engine programmer (computer and video games)	Writes the code for a game engine or parts of a game engine that can potentially be used in multiple games. May also work on R&D or Technology to improve engines for future games.	£25,000
Graphics programmer (computer and video games)	Specialises in the design and writing of computer code that runs and controls the graphics of a game on screen.	£25,000

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Audio programmer (computer and video games)	Designs and writes the computer code that runs and controls the sound in a game.	£25,000
Network programmer (computer and video games)	Specialises in the design and writing of computer code that runs and controls an online game or the online elements of a multiplayer game.	£30,000
Gameplay programmer (computer and video games)	Specialises in the design and writing of computer code that runs and controls the gameplay elements of a game including the reactions of enemies and team mates to the actions of player (artificial intelligence) and managing the reactions of objects in the game to abide by the laws of physics.	£25,000
Special effects programmer (computer and video games)	Specialises in the design and writing of computer code that runs and controls the visual effects of a game, such as explosions, smoke, wind and water.	£25,000
Senior artist (computer and video games)	Creates the visual elements of a game, such as characters, scenery, objects, vehicles, surface textures, clothing, props, and even user interface components. Creates concept art and storyboards which help communicate the proposed visual elements during the pre-production phase. May supervise other artists as part of a project team.	£25,000
Graphic artist (computer and video games)	Creates the visual elements of a game, such as characters, scenery, objects, vehicles, surface textures, clothing, props, and even user interface components. Creates concept art and storyboards which help communicate the proposed visual elements during the pre-production phase. Creates art assets for the game according to the specification and is responsible for managing those assets. Must be aware of the technical constraints and capabilities of the platform that the game will be played on.	£20,000
Special effects artist (computer and video games)	Specialises in the visual elements of a game, such as explosions, smoke and water.	£25,000
Technical artist (computer and video games)	Acts as a bridge between the artists and programmers working on a game. Ensures art assets can be easily integrated into a game without sacrificing either the overall artistic vision or exceeding the technical limits of the chosen platform. Creates custom tools to improve the efficiency of their team using the scripting languages included in the main modelling and animation packages. Oversees feedback or debugging complex assets such as character skeleton rigs and skinning systems.	£25,000
Animator (computer and video games)	Responsible for the portrayal of movement and behaviour to game characters and creatures, and other elements such as objects, scenery, vegetation and environmental effects. Specialist software packages are used to create the animations, which are used for both automated or 'in game' behaviours and predefined sequences or 'cut scenes'.	£20,000

[Sources: Salary Services Ltd IT Salary Survey 2008, The Independent Game Developers

Association - TIGA]

#### 3. Resident labour market test

Jobcentre Plus (or JobCentre Online for jobs in Northern Ireland): Yes

National newspapers: Yes

Professional journals: Yes, in any one of the following publications:

Computer WeeklyComputing Magazine

PC Pro

Develop Magazine (games jobs only)Edge Magazine (games jobs only)

Milkround: Yes, for jobs for new graduates or internships only.

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www.jobs.ac.uk

• www.milkround.com

• www.prospects.ac.uk

Internet: Yes, on any one of the following websites:

• www.cwjobs.co.uk

• <a href="https://www.developmag.com">www.developmag.com</a> (games jobs only)

www.edge-online.com (games jobs only)

• <a href="https://www.gamesindustry.biz">www.gamesindustry.biz</a> (games jobs only)

www.reed.co.uk

www.totaljobs.com

www.monster.co.uk

• www.jobserve.com

www.jobsite.co.uk

• www.fish4.co.uk/iad/jobs

• jobs.guardian.co.uk

• jobs.independent.co.uk

jobs.telegraph.co.uk

• jobs.timesonline.co.uk

You can use recruitment agencies and head-hunters to help you. The agency or headhunter may carry out a resident labour market test on your behalf, as specified in this code of practice and the guidance for Tier 2 Sponsors.

## 3131 IT operations technicians

This page explains the skill level and appropriate salary rate for IT operations technicians, and tells you how to meet the resident labour market test.

#### 1. Skill level

The following jobs in this occupation code are **at or above** NVQ or SVQ level 4:

- Senior systems administrator
- Systems administrator
- Network pre- or post-sales support consultant
- · Senior network communications analyst or engineer
- Network communications analyst or engineer
- Network controller or network administrator
- Senior network support engineer
- Network support engineer
- Webmaster or web administrator
- Asset manager (computer and video games)

#### 2. Appropriate salary rate

The job must be paid the minimum salary below, which is derived either from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) or, where alternative salary data is available, from an alternative code of practice.

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings: No Other code of practice: Yes

Sponsors must select the most appropriate job description from the table below. The job title need not be an exact match:

Possible job	Job description	Minimum
title(s)		rate
Senior systems administrator	Responsible for the overall management of operating systems, network and database software. Would be expected to have a major impact on how best the resources can be used for optimum performance and access. Assists management in hardware planning and the maintenance of systems upgrades and corrections and the setting of agreed service level agreements. Would have an in depth knowledge of products such as Unix, Windows, network and database software.	£33,200
Systems administrator	Responsible for the administration of operating systems, network and database software. Maintains access to the systems for both users and development personnel. Carries out updates and corrections to the software as required in order to maintain agreed levels of service. Would have experience of products such as Unix, VMS, Lans, Wans and database products.	£28,000

Network pre- or post-sales support and consultancy. In a pre-sales role would advise companies on the selection, assessment and effectiveness of both data and voice communications. Would provide expertise in technical design of overall networks and advise sales personnel accordingly. In a post sales role includes support for telecommunications equipment such as routers, switches, etc. together with related software. Refers to the technical consultancy / support role and not account management.    Senior network communications analyst or engineer   This job function covers high level design, planning and installation of networks including provision of hardware and software. Includes responsibility for upgrading and recovery procedures. Includes responsibility for upgrading and recovery procedures. In large installations analyst or engineer   This job function covers the design, planning and installation of networks including provision of hardware and software. Advises on overall security of corporate networks and associated operating and recovery procedures. In large installations would report to a senior network analyst. In smaller installations may form part of the overall system administration / support function.    Network controller or network analyst. In smaller installations may form part of the overall system administration / support and software elements. Monitors overall performance and directs recovery procedures.    With an in-depth knowledge of network hardware and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment. May supervise other network engineers on larger projects.    Webmaster or web administrator   Responsible for the updating and maintenance of the web service. This includes updating of content, access methods, operating software and network performance.    Responsible for managing the collection of graphic files, movie files, sound files, music files that are used to make a game.			
Senior network communications analyst or engineer  Network Controller or network administrator  Senior network support engineer  Network Support engineer  With an in-depth knowledge of network hardware and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks and associated operating and recovery procedures.  With experience of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment.  Network Support engineer  Webmaster or web administrator  Responsible for the general operation and administration of communications within a company including both hardware and software elements. Monitors overall performance and directs recovery procedures.  With an in-depth knowledge of network hardware and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate network engineers on larger projects.  Network Support engineer  Webmaster or web administrator  Responsible for the updating and maintenance of the web service. This includes updating of content, access methods, operating software and network performance.  Responsible for managing the collection of graphic files, movie files, sound files, music files that are used to	post-sales support	and consultancy. In a pre-sales role would advise companies on the selection, assessment and effectiveness of both data and voice communications. Would provide expertise in technical design of overall networks and advise sales personnel accordingly. In a post sales role includes support for telecommunications equipment such as routers, switches, etc, together with related software. Refers to the technical consultancy /	£36,400
installation of networks including provision of hardware and software. Advises on overall security of corporate networks and associated operating and recovery procedures. In large installations would report to a senior network analyst. In smaller installations may form part of the overall system administration / support function.  Network controller or network administrator  Senior network administrator  Senior network support engineer  With an in-depth knowledge of network hardware and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment. May supervise other network engineers on larger projects.  Network support engineer  Webmaster or web administrator  Asset manager (computer and	communications analyst or	installation of networks including provision of hardware and software. Includes responsibility for upgrading and changing networks. Advises on overall security of corporate networks and associated operating and	£41,300
controller or network administrator  Senior network support engineer  Network support engineer  Network support endineer  Network support endineers on larger projects.  Network support endineers on larger projects.  Network support end associated operating and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and endineers on larger projects.  Selated operating and associated for endineers on larger projects.  Selated operating and especial support endineers on larger projects.  Selated operating and especial support endineers on larger projects.  Selated operating and especial support endineers on larger projects.  Selated operating and especial support endineers on larger projects.  Selated operating and especial support endineers on larger projects.	communications analyst or	installation of networks including provision of hardware and software. Advises on overall security of corporate networks and associated operating and recovery procedures. In large installations would report to a senior network analyst. In smaller installations may form part of the overall system administration / support	£29,100
support engineer  associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment. May supervise other network engineers on larger projects.  With experience of network hardware and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment.  Webmaster or web administrator  Responsible for the updating and maintenance of the web service. This includes updating of content, access methods, operating software and network performance.  Responsible for managing the collection of graphic files, movie files, sound files, music files that are used to make a game.  £20,000	controller or network	of communications within a company including both hardware and software elements. Monitors overall	£26,000
Network support engineer  With experience of network hardware and associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment.  Webmaster or web administrator  Responsible for the updating and maintenance of the web service. This includes updating of content, access methods, operating software and network performance.  Responsible for managing the collection of graphic files, movie files, sound files, music files that are used to	support	associated cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate networks into a system environment. May supervise	£31,200
web administrator  web service. This includes updating of content, access methods, operating software and network performance.  Responsible for managing the collection of graphic files, movie files, sound files, music files that are used to	support	cabling, this job would cover the installation and maintenance of networks. Related operating and software expertise is also required in order to integrate	£27,000
(computer and movie files, sound files, music files that are used to	web	Responsible for the updating and maintenance of the web service. This includes updating of content, access	£28,000
<b>,</b>	(computer and	movie files, sound files, music files that are used to	£20,000

[Sources: Salary Services Ltd IT Salary Survey 2008, The Independent Game Developers Association - TIGA]

#### 3. Resident labour market test

Jobcentre Plus (or JobCentre Online for jobs in Northern Ireland): Yes

National newspapers: Yes

Professional journals: Yes, in any one of the following publications:

Computer Weekly

Computing Magazine

• PC Pro

• Develop Magazine (games jobs only)

• Edge Magazine (games jobs only)

Milkround: No

Internet: Yes, on any one of the following websites:

• www.cwjobs.co.uk

• <a href="www.developmag.com">www.developmag.com</a> (games jobs only)

• <a href="www.edge-online.com">www.edge-online.com</a> (games jobs only)

• <u>www.gamesindustry.biz</u> (games jobs only)

www.reed.co.uk

www.totaljobs.com

www.monster.co.uk

• www.jobserve.com

• www.jobsite.co.uk

www.fish4.co.uk/iad/jobs

• jobs.guardian.co.uk

• jobs.independent.co.uk

• jobs.telegraph.co.uk

• jobs.timesonline.co.uk

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