



## CAREER PROFILE

# Network Engineer

For decades, Itron has been delivering critical energy and water infrastructure services and products to customers around the globe—and the company is just getting started. Its various systems communicate, and data is transported across different networks, including **RF** and cellular. As part of the internet technology (IT) team, **network engineers** manage and troubleshoot network communication and help support Itron's company purpose to be more resourceful with energy and water.

## NETWORK ENGINEER

**Network engineers** manage data centers, **WAN** networking, network security, and **VPNs**. They interact with internal and external customers to resolve issues and plan and execute projects. Network engineers have a strong knowledge of industry-wide network and security protocols, efficient administration strategies, and effective troubleshooting abilities.

## CAREER OUTLOOK<sup>1</sup>

As organizations continue to build new IT infrastructure, there will be a steady need for **network engineers** in the future.

Projected job growth: 4% (2021–2031)

Median annual salary: \$120,520

## IS NETWORK ENGINEER A GOOD CAREER FOR ME?

Network engineers are

- strong communicators
- patient and flexible workers
- multitaskers
- complex problem-solvers
- solution-seekers
- workers who are savvy with technology and computer networking

**RF (radio frequency network):** wireless electromagnetic signals that carriers use as a form of communication

**WAN (wide area network):** a telecommunications network that extends over a large geographic area

**VPN (virtual private network):** a private network that is extended over a public network and allows users to send and receive private data

## AM I

- patient?
- flexible?
- able to multitask?

## DO I

- like to solve problems?
- enjoy working with computers and technology?
- communicate effectively?

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-network-architects.htm>

## HOW DO I BECOME A NETWORK ENGINEER?

You will need to:

- take classes in computer science and technology
- develop your communication skills
- study computer science or engineering in college
- get job experience in network management, IT, or cybersecurity