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NETWORKED FOR SUCCESS

Strong job growth forecast in ever-expanding IT field

By Laura Evans
Special to The Star Ledger

Interested in a career where you can make a six-figure salary without a traditional college education? A job in information technology (IT) might be right for you.

According to an article published by Forbes, network/data communications managers can earn more than \$100,000 annually without a four-year degree. Employment growth that is projected to be above average over the next eight years in a field that is constantly expanding makes a career in computers attractive to job seekers.

"Computer networking is the No. 2 fastest growing (field) and these jobs (technical support, network administration) cannot easily be outsourced," said Zafar Khizer, founder of PC Age Institute with campuses in Edison, Jersey City and Parsippany.

"Many people who are successful in the computer networking field do not have a degree in computer science," Khizer said. "Certifications (however) are important for all who wish to work and succeed in this field, and vital for those with fewer educational credentials," Khizer said. Network administrators/engineers need to have about one year of training and be certified to



Salaries of more than six figures for careers launched without a traditional college education are available in the computer IT field, although certifications may improve applicants' chances for employment and can help workers maintain adequate skill levels throughout their careers.

launch a successful networking career, according to Khizer.

"PC Age graduates are trained to work as network technicians/technical support professionals or network administrators," he said.

"Network technicians/technical support professionals provide technical support to

computer users. They perform computer tasks such as installation, configuration, diagnosis, preventive maintenance and basic networking," Khizer said.

Network Administrators work with companies that use computer networks and are responsible for keeping a network up and running. A network administrator may be responsible for installing and configuring network hardware and software, media and connections, connecting user nodes and peripherals to the network, managing user accounts – such as passwords, storage space and file-access privileges – creating and maintaining a system for backing up data and program files, ensuring the security of the network, managing the organization's e-mail system, managing users' ability to access the Internet via the network and training users to utilize the network's resources, according to Khizer.

"A network engineer designs and manages the groups of computers networked together," he said. "(He/she) performs tasks such as installing and configuring communication hardware, setting up the network communication link, installing and configuring application software, troubleshooting operations to ensure continuous network availability and providing technical support and assistance."

PC Age's program, which usually can be completed in one year, includes preparation for CompTIA A+, Network+, Security+ and Microsoft Desktop and Server Operating Systems certifications to qualify students to work in this area.

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For more information on an IT career, contact PC AGE today. **888-722-4360** or **PCAGE.edu**