NDG

Developing IT Professionals

Linux
Career Guide

Fall 2016

Linux Is Everywhere

Phones, cars, even space ships. Just about everywhere you look, you'll find Linux enabling organizations to drive digital transformation, develop new cloud capabilities, and capitalize on new opportunities in the marketplace. Because it is found across technology platforms (mobile, social, networking, cloud computing, and Big Data), the jobs requiring Linux knowledge are abundant.

There's never been a better time to learn Linux. Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned IT professional, learning Linux gives you a life-changing skill upgrade that can help you build a rewarding career in a rapidly growing field. Explore this guide to learn about the many career paths and opportunities available for Linux-trained professionals.

System Administrator
System Engineer

Do you like problem solving or have a knack for troubleshooting complex issues? You may want to consider a career as a System Administrator or System Engineer. With the ever-increasing volume of Linux devices and servers, both of these positions are in high demand and command competitive wages.

Linux System Administrators are responsible for the day-to-day maintenance and operation of Linux systems and support of their users, while Linux System Engineers are responsible for creating and building such systems, services, and software applications. Both jobs typically require a bachelor's degree in addition to certifications such as Linux Professional Institute's LPIC-1: Certified Linux Administrator and CompTIA Linux+. Prospective employees will also benefit from experience with virtualization, logging, user support, and hardware maintenance.

Salary

Linux System Administrator
Salary Range: $41,000 to $105,000

41K	105K

National Average: $67,000

Linux System Engineer
Salary Range: $59,000 to $118,000

59K	118K

National Average: $89,018

All salaries are in USD

Salary

Support Technician

Salary Range: $23,000 to $51,000

23K	

National Average: $36,337

Support Engineer

Salary Range: $43,000 to $97,000

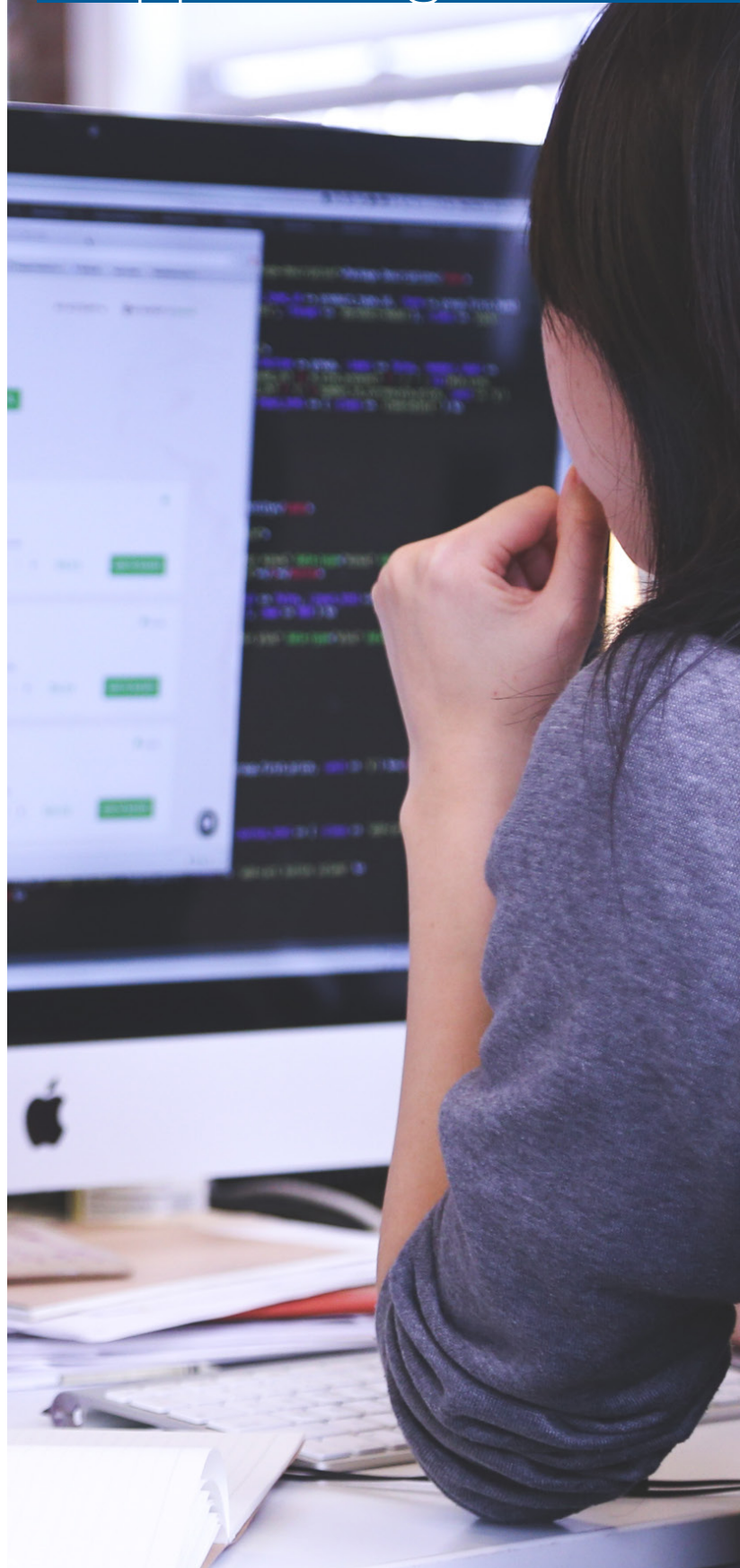| 43K	

National Average: $70,000

All salaries are in USD

Are you a person who works best in teams and has exceptional organizational skills? If so, you may be a good fit as an IT Manager or IT Technician. IT Managers and Technicians are responsible for maintaining and planning an organization's technology infrastructure, as well as advising on and evaluating projects. Both jobs blend traditional business management skills with those of an IT professional to meet modern technology challenges in today's environment.

Organizations looking to hire for these positions typically look for their employees to provide input on hiring for other technical staff, the ability to delegate projects and responsibilities, meet goals, and have leadership skills. Certifications such as the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE) and CompTIA A+ can help set you apart from other candidates when applying for these positions.

Software Engineer

Salary Range: $67,000 to $132,000

67K	132K

National Average: $95,195

Software Developer

Salary Range: $44,000 to $127,000

44K	127K

National Average: $85,000

All salaries are in USD

Software Engineer
Software Developer

Are you looking for a stable career with growth potential? Software Engineers and Developers are highly sought after and are in ever-increasing demand. Nearly every business and industry uses software for a core part of their operations, and this trend will only become more pronounced as new technologies become available. Software Developers can either work as a contractor or as a permanent part of a larger team.

Those looking for jobs in this sector typically require a bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Mathematics, skills in various computer languages, the ability to document, and familiarity with the software development/release process. Prospective employees may also wish to have an understanding of the industry they desire to work in, as well as other relevant technical training. Foundational Linux skills can be an important first step in a successful career.

Network Administrator
Network Engineer

Do you take pride in your ability to manage every detail to make complex systems bulletproof? As the name implies, Network Administrators and Engineers are responsible for the day-to-day administration of computer networks. These positions are usually more narrowly focused than most IT jobs, but typically involve working as part of a larger team.

A large percentage of the network gear that makes the Internet and intranets work correctly is running some form of Linux. Having the ability to dig deeply into these systems and knowing your way around a command line is crucial. Most Network Administrators and Engineers have multiple certifications such as the LPIC-1: Certified Linux Administrator and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA). Knowing these core technologies is essential.

Salary

Network Administrator
Salary Range: $48,000 to $82,000

48K	82K

National Average: $63,584

Network Engineer
Salary Range: $54,000 to $108,000

54K	108K

National Average: $73,165

All salaries are in USD

Salary

IT Manager

Salary Range: $41,000 to $131,000

41K	131K

National Average: $70,628

IT Technician

Salary Range: $23,000 to $57,000

23K	57K

National Average: $35,839

All salaries are in USD

IT Manager

IT Technician

Enjoy working directly with the public or with other end users of technology? Support Technicians and Engineers are responsible for the day-to-day support and assistance of IT products. This may include support over the phone, in person, or via email. Support can be an important entry point into other career openings, and you can gain valuable experience from interacting with customers.

Support roles require solid customer service skills, the ability to quickly diagnose issues, an aptitude for creating clear documentation, and the ability to work as part of a larger team. While support jobs typically have lower requirements than other positions, having Linux certifications and qualifications can help distinguish you from other candidates and increase your compensation.

Cloud Engineer
Cloud Developer

Are you a versatile jack-of-all-trades who enjoys working on the cutting edge of technology? Cloud Engineers and Developers are expected to have backgrounds in a wide range of technologies and be able to adapt to one of the newest and most rapidly evolving fields in the industry. Talented individuals with these abilities are in high demand and will continue to be so for some time.

Cloud Engineers and Developers are responsible for the various aspects of both migrating existing services over to the cloud and creating brand new technologies using the cloud. This could include managing teams and projects, working as part of a large team, developing standards, and even innovating entirely new ideas. Most importantly, these jobs require both knowledge of existing cloud tools and a willingness to quickly adapt to new tools as they become available. Since Linux powers a large percentage of both the servers and user devices of this technology, a strong Linux foundation could be essential to success.

Salary

Cloud Engineer/Developer
Salary Range: $50,000 to $120,000

50K	120K

National Average: $95,000

All salaries are in USD

Salary

DevOps Engineer

Salary Range: $68,000 to $142,000

68K	142K

National Average: $100,000

All salaries are in USD

Do you excel in a fast-paced environment where seconds matter? As anyone that deals with technology can tell you, things invariably go wrong, and DevOps is usually on the front lines when it happens. Even when there isn't some form of emergency, DevOps is about working with products through their entire lifecycle and maintaining constant vigilance to spot issues before they happen.

While a DevOps Engineer is obviously going to have job requirements specific to the product supported, most individuals in the field are cross-disciplinary and have a large range of skills. Typical responsibilities include building, deploying, and administering software packages in addition to monitoring their performance and stability. Linux knowledge will set you apart, as many DevOps tools and their databases run on Linux and are integrated with tools throughout the enterprise.

Web Developer

Looking for a position that allows you to manage a project from start to finish? Web Developers are responsible for building and maintaining websites, as well as managing their technical operation. This can involve taking a concept through the design process all the way to a finished product, or working as part of a larger team to finish a goal.

Most positions require proficiency in web markup such as HTML and CSS, as well as experience with servers hosting web content. Strong candidates for these positions usually have a bachelor's degree in computer science or a related field, and a solid understanding of various web technologies and practices. Since the majority of websites worldwide are hosted on servers running some form of Linux, skills in this area can be quite valuable to a prospective employer.

Salary

Web Developer

Salary Range: $41,000 to $96,000

41K	96K

National Average: $66,238

All salaries are in USD

There's never been a better time to learn Linux. Everywhere you look—from Apple to Zipcar—employers are looking for professionals with Linux skills to help them succeed in an open-source world. Jobs are plentiful. Salaries continue to outpace the market. And the careers are highly rewarding, giving you the opportunity to make a real difference.

Learning Linux gives you a powerful advantage in a competitive job market. Even basic Linux knowledge can help you climb to the top of the resume pile—or the career ladder. And the more you learn, the more valuable you become.

NDG Online is the easiest and most effective way to learn Linux.
A Linux virtual machine is embedded right alongside the course material. So you can learn on a real system, and start applying your newfound skills right away. Simply launch a module in your web browser and start learning. It's that easy.

Get started today at: netdevgroup.com/linux-careers

NDG Linux Unhatched
Learn the basics for free! NDG eases you into acquiring Linux knowledge with a free online learning module that teaches basic installation and configuration of Linux software and introduces the Linux command line.

NDG Linux Essentials
This course teaches the fundamentals of the Linux operating system, command line, and open-source concepts. With no previous knowledge required, this free online course gives you valuable skills that will help you compete for a broad range of Linux-based jobs.

NDG Linux I and NDG Linux II
These courses enable you to develop foundational Linux system administration skills and prepare for the Linux Professional Institute LPIC-1 or CompTIA Linux+ certifications, so that you can obtain a rewarding Linux technology career.

Professional Certification
NDG Linux courses are aligned directly with Linux Professional Institute certifications. Getting certified allows you to demonstrate to potential employers that you have the strong Linux foundation necessary for today's internships and jobs. To learn more, visit: lpi.org/certification/.

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Salary data sources: glassdoor.com & payscale.com