

[Employers:](#) [Post a Job](#)Already Registered? [Sign In >](#)[Home](#) [Search Jobs](#) [My Sologig](#) [My Recommended Jobs](#) [Articles](#) [All Jobs](#) [Employers](#)

## What is an IT architect?

By **Sologig**

the world progresses, the information technology field grows and evolves with each year. No longer are the computer geeks relegated to one windowless section of the fourth floor where other departments ventured only when their laptops broke. Today, technology has become such a staple that nearly every job requires a certain degree of tech-savvy. With that, the IT field itself has bloomed into a vast garden of opportunities in which new career paths and pursuits are popping up left and right.

The [IT architect](#) is one such newer career path, and, according to expert Anthony R. Howard, who was named InfoWorld and ComputerWorld's #1 IT Super Hero of 2011, it's not easy to get into. But it is possible.

"In my experience," says Howard, "true [information technology architect](#) is a specialization where generally it's difficult to get into. I believe this is because there are so many obstacles to getting into the role, and when [you do] get into it, it can seem like drinking from a fire hose." His opinion is that experience is what counts far more than the letters behind your name, which might be degrees or certifications, and that both customers and IT companies are more interested in hiring people with proven experience than in taking a gamble on someone new.

This translates to the difficult task of landing an [IT architect](#) job because it is a role companies generally want to know you have already done as opposed to training you to do it. One recent job posting on Sologig.com listed 10-plus years' experience in IT as required for applicants.

"When people ask me how to get into an [IT architect](#) role in top IT firms and succeed in the role," shares Howard, "I usually tell them the same thing: Pick the organization you want to be with, don't leave it to chance. Get in the door of that organization. Perhaps [IT sales](#), perhaps a [junior consultant](#), maybe something else. Learn that company, learn the products, processes, technology, and the competitive landscape." From there, after obtaining through experience a thorough knowledge of the company, its goals, and the technologies available, one can pursue the coveted role of [IT architect](#).

Dr. Craig Brown, Ph.D., explains how he became an [IT architect](#) after 20 years in the IT field. "I started out as an application programmer, then moved into database and [application administration](#)," Brown recalls. "Next I started project managing. Next I got into database and application design. Then I moved into [infrastructure](#) and naturally a little later I started learning architecture design. From there I got into IT architecture."

One reason this desired title is hard to obtain is that it requires, according to Brown, "a high degree of technical expertise as well as business understanding, as IT architects determine which information technology investments will yield the best return, both in terms of hard costs and productivity benefits." Hence Howard's advice to get in with one company and really learn the ins and outs of its IT needs relevant to what its business goals are, then work your way up and into the position.

### Follow Us

Keep up with all the latest Sologig news on Facebook, Twitter, or using our RSS feed



### Recent Articles

- [What is an IT architect?](#)
- [Most in-demand IT jobs: Stats and opinions](#)
- [Report: Demand for engineers outstripping supply](#)
- [10 Highest-Paid Engineering Specialties](#)
- [IT Applicants Rate Prospective Bosses](#)

Though it might not be a role people step into right after getting a B.S. in computer science, it can be quite a lucrative one once you get there.

According to [CBSalary.com](http://CBSalary.com), the average IT architect in the U.S. earns \$121,489 annually.

2013, Sologig

© 2010 Sologig.com. All Rights Reserved.

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Guidelines](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Skills Index](#) | [Browse IT Jobs](#)

Partner Sites: [Management & Executive Jobs](#) | [Full-Time Jobs](#) | [Retail Jobs](#) | [Restaurant Jobs](#) | [Employment Resources](#) | [Salary Calculator](#) | [Free Career Test](#) | [DegreeDriven.com](#)

[CB Institute](#) | [Entry level Jobs](#) | [Internships](#) | [Healthcare Jobs](#) | [Therapy Jobs](#) | [Allied Health Jobs](#) | [Nursing Jobs](#) | [IT Talent Networks](#) | [Resume Writing](#)

