

Academics and Computer Systems Administration

Justin Antonio

English 122

Ms. Irwin

October 1, 2012

### Academics and Computer Systems Administration

"The direction in which education starts a man will determine his future life." -- Plato

Education is not for everyone but, to get ahead in life, go back to school. We live in a society today different from past generations. Plenty of jobs were available which did not require any form of higher education. America's workforce consisted of skilled tradesman. With the developing rate of technology, demands for critical thinkers and problem solvers were in need. The importance of education with an Associate of Science degree in Computer Systems Administration develops the skills that open opportunities in an expanding field, and results in a great salary and benefits.

### **The Importance of an Education**

Take a look at Information Technology job postings. Most of them require a minimum of some college degree. Without a college degree, I would still need at least 4 years of experience in a related field to even qualify. For those who have not received a higher education, opportunities are not as widespread compared to college graduates. Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates (Employment Projections, 2011). It is important to remember the significant amount of opportunity available for college graduates. The global economy is becoming increasingly more competitive, and in order to get the best chance for a well-paying job, understanding the importance of education is necessary (McGuire, N.d.). College showcases that you can be punctual, write reasonably well, and have developed enough reasoning skills to actually function in an environment with other adults. It also helps to communicate effectively and analyze and solve problems.

### **An Expanding Field and Advancement Availability**

Education will help with maintaining a job as technology evolves. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that growth in this job market is expected to be above average for the foreseeable future. Additionally, the BLS also maintains that the median weekly salary for associate's degree holders across all occupations is 23% higher than those for individuals who have earned only a high school diploma (Associate Degree in Computer Science, N.d.). In an expanding field like Computer System Administration, there will always be room for advancement. Entry-level network and computer systems administrators are involved in routine maintenance and monitoring of computer systems (Computer Network, Systems, and Database Administrators, 2010). After gaining experience and developing skills, they are often able to progress to more senior-level positions and even, supervisory positions. Database administrators and network architects may advance into managerial positions, such as chief technology officer, on the basis of their experience. Computer specialists with work experience and considerable expertise in a particular area may find opportunities as independent consultants. Computer security specialists can advance into supervisory positions, or may move into other occupations, such as computer systems analysts. Network administrators may advance into network engineering, in which they design networks from the ground up based on a company's needs and priorities. They may also branch out into other areas of computing such as programming, systems analysis (Computer Network, Systems, and Database Administrators, 2010). Computer networks are becoming a standard part of most medium-to-large firms, and even of many smaller ones. The need for computers in businesses is now becoming essential creating efficiency and productiveness in work. As companies incorporate new technologies, the need for tech-support increases.

### **Salary and Benefits**

Median annual wages of network and computer systems administrators were \$66,310 in May 2008. The middle 50 percent earned a salary of between \$51,690 and \$84,110. The lowest 10 percent earned a salary of less than \$41,000, and the highest 10 percent earned a salary of more than \$104,070. The biggest factors influencing the salary of a specific systems administrator include the education, length of service, certification, and company for which the person works. Like any career, a system administrator's pay is affected by the length of time. A survey of systems administrator salaries shows that system administrators start off making less than \$40,000 per year, though this figure rises fairly rapidly in the first few years. By two years on the job in a full systems administrator capacity, Salary.com reports average pay around \$71,000 (Job Details for Systems Administrator, N.d.). There is a less likely chance to live in poverty with an earned college degree. Society benefits from higher education, too. If you earn a college degree, you'll probably be better able to spend money to stimulate the economy (Associate Degree in Computer Science, N.d.). Sensitivity and to cultural differences and respect for beliefs of people may result with the result of higher education. After completing a college degree, a person may have a wider spectrum of career options, which often leads to increased personal choice and freedom. The importance of having an education means more than a piece of paper. It is a growing trend that will soon be a human trait.

### **Conclusion**

Economy is becoming tech-savvy. Businesses are looking to computers to aid with production. And the ones who are best suited to manage these with the growing popularity of education; the choice is left to the individual. Opportunity in an expanding field, a great salary

and benefits will be the outcome of furthering and education with an Associate of Science degree.

## References

- Associate Degree in Computer Science. (N.d.). Retrieved March 1, 2012, from <http://www.computermajors.com/degree-types/associate-degree-in-computer-science.aspx>
- Computer Network, Systems, and Database Administrators. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2010-11 Edition, Retrieved March 1, 2012 from <http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos305.htm>
- Employment Projections. (2011, May). Retrieved March 1, 2012, from [http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_chart\\_001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm)
- Job Details for Systems Administrator, (N.d.), Retrieved March 1, 2012, from <http://swz.salary.com/SalaryWizard/systems-administrator-Salary-Details.aspx>
- McGuire, Jeff. Importance of College Education. (N.d.). Retrieved March 1, 2012, from <http://www.collegeview.com/articles/article/importance-of-college-education>