




## STUDENT ACTIVATION



# IT Senior Director

## OVERVIEW

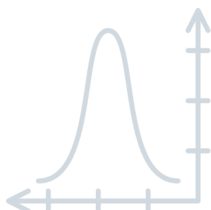
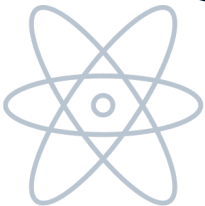


IT senior directors manage the IT (or information technology) department within an organization. The IT department's primary role is to make sure that the organization's computer network runs smoothly. In addition to overseeing the maintenance of IT systems, IT senior directors lead their staff to ensure that the organization's technology systems achieve business goals, minimize security risks, and increase user satisfaction. IT senior directors are ultimately responsible for ensuring their organization makes the most of technology. If you are interested in technology and business, thrive on large amounts of responsibility, enjoy problem-solving, and have the leadership and communication skills to be in charge of a large team, you may make an excellent IT senior director!



## EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST

- I enjoy thinking strategically.
- I enjoy leading, and others seem comfortable following me.
- I stay on top of current technology trends.
- I use technology to solve problems.
- I am able to create step-by-step processes to accomplish a goal.
- I like working with different groups of people who share a common mission.
- I have strong communication skills.
- I am interested in STEM subjects like calculus, statistics, and computer science.



# IT Senior Director

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



## CAREER CONNECTION

<b>How does this career affect me?</b>	<b>What are some other similar careers?</b>	<b>How does this career affect the world?</b>
<p>Name an organization, company, or piece of technology that you rely on, and it likely has an IT department. Your school district, your local supermarket, your favorite clothing store, your most-used online shopping site, your cell phone provider, your streaming services: each of these organizations has an IT department that ensures that its technology works smoothly to support the company and its customers, that its users get the tech help they need, and that data is transmitted safely and efficiently.</p> <p>While the size of each IT department depends on the needs of the organization, at the head of each one is the IT senior director. This person makes strategic decisions and leads IT staff members to ensure that the organization's technology systems are working to meet or exceed the organization's goals. This in turn allows the organizations and companies that you depend on to run smoothly.</p>	<p><b>Chief technology officers</b> are the only position above IT senior directors in the technology department. They are part of a company's senior executive team, and they work to set the company's overall strategy and improve its performance. The chief technology officer is specifically responsible for planning and implementing an IT strategy that meets the company's business needs.</p> <p><b>Information technology (IT) management consultants</b> are hired on a project basis to review an organization's existing business and IT problems in order to develop a plan that helps the organization improve its overall performance.</p> <p><b>Computer systems analysts</b> analyze a business's current computer systems and then design personalized technology solutions that are more efficient and effective.</p>	<p>Our world runs on technology, and IT senior directors ensure that this technology functions optimally for all involved.</p> <p>On a personal level, technology keeps the world connected. It transports us; it facilitates our access to goods, food and health care; it makes learning interactive; and it allows ideas to be shared more easily.</p> <p>On a business level, technology enhances communication across businesses, within businesses, and between businesses and customers. It also dramatically increases the speed at which manufacturing can occur. This improves productivity and decreases overall costs, which benefits large corporations and small organizations alike.</p>



# IT Senior Director

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



## TAKE ACTION

- Learn to code! Join a coding club at your school, take a coding course, or try out a free online resource like code.org.
- Identify an aspect of technology that your parents or grandparents don't understand. Develop a step-by-step manual for using this technology and adapt the instructions until your parents or grandparents can complete it on their own.
- Perform a family security and privacy audit. Does your family share personal information safely? Are your passwords secure? Once you've completed an audit, help your family develop a plan for staying safer online.
- Brainstorm a need that your family has and search for an app that could help. For instance: Should you exercise more? Read more? Cook more balanced meals? Develop a goal and then use the app to work towards it!

