

CAREER OF THE WEEK: Solutions Architect

What does a solutions architect do?

A solutions architect is a tech expert who designs and manages complex software and IT systems for businesses. Think of them as the bridge between business needs and technology solutions. They analyse a company's requirements, plan the architecture of software systems, and ensure that technology works efficiently and securely. Their role often involves choosing the right software, integrating systems, solving problems, and making sure projects run smoothly from start to finish. In short, they turn ideas into practical, working solutions.



What can I expect to earn as a solutions architect?

Salaries for solutions architects vary depending on experience and location. In the UK, entry-level roles start around £40,000 per year. With a few years of experience, this can rise to between £60,000 and £80,000. Senior solutions architects, especially those working for large tech companies or consulting firms, can earn over £100,000 annually. Freelance or contract work can offer even higher rates, though these roles are less stable.

What subjects should I study to become a solutions architect?

There's no single route into this career, but a solid foundation in technology is essential. Useful subjects include computer science, information technology, software engineering, and mathematics. Courses in cloud computing, networking, cybersecurity, and business management can also give you a head start.

Many solutions architects supplement formal education with professional certifications, such as AWS Certified Solutions Architect, Microsoft Azure Solutions Architect, or TOGAF. These demonstrate expertise and can make your CV stand out.

How can I start my career as a solutions architect?

Most solutions architects begin in related IT roles. Common starting points include software developer, systems analyst, IT consultant, or network engineer. Gaining experience in different areas of technology is important, as is learning how to communicate complex ideas to non-technical people. Building practical skills through projects, internships, or volunteering in tech initiatives can help you get noticed. Over time, by gaining experience and potentially achieving certifications, you can progress into a solutions architect role. Networking with professionals in the field and staying up to date with technology trends will also boost your career prospects.

In a world increasingly driven by technology, solutions architects play a key role in shaping how businesses operate. If you enjoy problem-solving, designing systems, and connecting tech solutions to real-world business challenges, this career could be a perfect fit.

To research local education and training opportunities that could lead to a career as a solutions architect, visit our partner website www.logonmoveon.co.uk

Other useful websites to find out more about a career as a solutions architect:

National Careers Service, Solutions Architect <https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/solutions-architect>
Indeed, How to become a solutions architect <https://uk.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/how-to-become-solutions-architect>



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