

Module One: IT Careers Interest Inventory

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A project funded and produced by the NWCET, IEEE, NSF and TAF.

Take this fun interest inventory to help point you in the direction of some IT Careers you might like better than others. This is not intended to be a definitive instrument for use in career guidance. There are no right or wrong answers, just circle the answers that best describe you.

The inventory is divided into two sections. Section I asks you questions about your learning preferences and personality style. Section II asks you questions to help you think about multiple intelligences. You can take just one section or both sections.

Once you have finished the inventory and have learned what areas of IT you might be interested in, look at the <http://www.nwcet.org/projects/cybercareers/students/itcareercenter/> IT Career Center. There you can learn about what kinds of things IT professionals in your interest area do.

Section I

Section I of the inventory is adapted from work done by Gordon Lawrence (*People Types, Tiger Stripes*, 1987) and David Kiersey (*Please Understand Me*, 1996).

Part I

1. You would describe yourself as:
 - a. liking something new all the time. Surprise is good.
 - b. liking to know what is going on. Surprises are unpleasant.

2. You:
 - a. don't notice the details of your surroundings. It doesn't matter if your room or desk is messy.
 - b. are very sensitive to your environment. If your desk or room is messy you cannot concentrate on your homework.

3. You:
 - a. dislike work that requires you to pay attention to lots of little details.
 - b. like keeping track of details and making sure all the "little things" are in order.

4. You:
 - a. get a lot done all once and then take a break and "slack off."
 - b. work steadily, and get things done a little bit everyday according to your plan.

5. When you are working on a class project, you would prefer:
 - a. to learn new skills.
 - b. to use skills that you have already learned.

SCORE PART I

How many a's did you circle? Write that number here: _____ Multiply by 1: _____ x 1 Part I a TOTAL _____	How many b's did you circle? Write that number here: _____ Multiply by 2: _____ x 2 Part I b TOTAL _____
Add Part I a and b TOTALS: _____ + _____ = _____ PART I TOTAL*	
If your PART I TOTAL* is between 5-7, go to <i>Part II</i>	
If your PART I TOTAL* is between 8-10, go to <i>Part III</i>	

Part II

6. You:
 - a. would be happy if all you ever had to do is explore ideas.
 - b. soon get bored by ideas if they don't clearly relate to people's real lives.

7. When someone tries to convince that a new idea is good, you believe that:
 - a. the idea should be logical and make sense. How an idea makes you or others feel is not important.
 - b. it's more important to figure out how a new idea makes you and others feel before accepting it.

8. If you had to help solve a conflict, you would be:
 - a. fair and impartial—this is more important than making people feel comfortable.
 - b. warm and personal --it's most important to make people feel comfortable.

9. You like figuring out:
 - a. how things work.
 - b. how people work.

10. When working in groups, you:
 - a. will choose conflict if you believe your ideas are right.
 - b. tend to believe it's more important to get along with everybody.

SCORE PART II

How many a's did you circle? Write that number here: _____ Multiply by 5: _____ x 5 Part II a TOTAL _____	How many b's did you circle? Write that number here: _____ Multiply by 1: _____ x 1 Part II b TOTAL _____
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Add Part II a and b TOTALS: _____ + _____ = _____ PART II TOTAL*
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Add PART I TOTAL* to PART II TOTAL*: _____ + _____ = _____ SCORE Look for your SCORE on page 5

Part III

11. When you are researching for a class project, you like to:
 - a. have a plan, and make sure things go according to that plan.
 - b. have a vague idea of how things should go, but mostly just let things happen and see what comes up.

12. When working on a project, it is most important to you to:
 - a. get it right and get it done.
 - b. explore all the possibilities, even if it means that things feel disorganized or behind.

13. You find it:
 - a. easy to make decisions because there are definite answers to every question.
 - b. difficult to make decisions because there is always another way to look at things.

14. You:
 - a. don't like looking for new information about something once you have made up your mind. You like moving on once you've made a decision.
 - b. are always exploring. You get excited about information that sheds new light on a situation and welcome the opportunity to change previous decisions.

15. You are more interested in:
 - a. trying to make sure that situations conform to standards, that everything is as it "should be."
 - b. exploring situations and understanding them, and less interested in how things "should be."

SCORE PART III

How many a's did you circle? Write that number here: _____ Multiply by 10: _____ x 10 Part III a TOTAL _____	How many b's did you circle? Write that number here: _____ Multiply by 6: _____ x 6 Part III b TOTAL _____
Add Part III a and b TOTALS: _____ + _____ = _____ PART III TOTAL *	

Add PART I TOTAL* to PART III TOTAL*: _____ + _____ = _____ SCORE Look for your SCORE on page 6 or 7

Scoring Explanation

Score of 10-20

CHARACTERISTICS:

- people person
- likes communication and teamwork
- walks others through processes
- helps others understand their role
- makes sure everyone is on board
- helps others understand
- happy to share what has been learned

BEST FITS:

- **Technical Support**
 - help others learn to use technology
 - teach technology classes
 - help others solve problems they have with their computers
- **Technology Sales, Consulting, Technology Marketing and Training**

Don't underestimate the importance of "people skills" in IT. People skills combined with technology skills are a winning combination! To get a better idea of specific applications of IT in which you might be interested, take the Multiple Intelligences Inventory on page 8.

Score of 22-32

CHARACTERISTICS:

- sees big picture
- learns by challenging situations or systems
- tests constantly
- analyzes pieces of the whole
- thinks about how parts fit together to make the whole work better
- likes complexity
- likes puzzles

BEST FITS:

- **Database Design and Administration**
 - help people design systems for tracking of lots of different kinds of information on the computer

- **Computer programming/Engineering**
 - write programs in computer languages that instruct computers to do certain tasks
- **Network design and Administration**
 - design, install and maintain the networks of computers that offices and companies rely on today
- **Enterprise Systems Analysis and Integration**
 - help companies figure out how to improve their old work processes by moving to new computerized systems

People who receive this score might need to remember that IT careers today demand good communication and teamwork skills. To get a better idea of specific applications of IT in which you might be interested, take the Multiple Intelligences Inventory on page 8.

Score of 38-48

CHARACTERISTICS:

- can deal with lots of change
- problem solves on-the-spot
- negotiates
- troubleshoots
- develops art or tinkers with equipment
- practical
- finds resources to get a job done

BEST FITS:

- **Digital Media and Web Development**
 - design graphics and layout and interactive media for web pages
 - design and maintain web sites
- **Technical Support**
 - respond quickly to help others solve computer problems
- **Database Developer and Administrator**
 - help people design systems for tracking of lots of different kinds of information on the computer
- **Computer programming/Engineering**
 - write programs in computer languages that instruct computers to do certain tasks
- Also consider **Technical Support** jobs in television, live presentations or theatre.
 - trouble shoot technical problems onsite

The world of IT requires problem solving and trouble shooting in a fast paced environment. Your combination of interest in the technical and your interest in people means you might especially like the world of IT. To get a better idea of specific applications of IT in which you might be interested, take the Multiple Intelligences Inventory on page 8.

Score 50-60

CHARACTERISTICS:

- keeps things organized and in order
- makes sure that projects stay on track
- makes sure that information is standardized so that procedures are easy to follow
- gives careful attention to organization, procedure and structure
- can manage systems that require attention to precision and organization

BEST FITS:

- **Technical Writer**
 - ensure that standards are maintained in technical documents and products
- **Database Administrator**
 - ensure that computers systems for tracking information are maintained and function effectively
- **Network Designer and Administrator**
 - ensure that procedures and order are followed and maintained in the functioning of office computer networks
- **Computer Programmer/Engineer**
 - write very detail-oriented computer programs
 - IT jobs in accounting, stocks and bonds companies and other businesses where you would use IT to develop financial tools and services

To work in the world of IT, you have to flexible and deal with an ever changing environment. To get a better idea of specific applications of IT in which you might be interested, take the Multiple Intelligences Inventory on page 8.

Multiple Intelligences Survey

Complete each section by placing a "1" next to each statement you feel accurately describes you. If you do not identify with a statement, leave the space provided blank. Then total the column in each section.

Section 1

- _____ I enjoy categorizing things by common traits
- _____ Ecological issues are important to me
- _____ Hiking and camping are enjoyable activities
- _____ I enjoy working on a garden
- _____ I believe preserving our National Parks is important
- _____ Putting things in hierarchies makes sense to me
- _____ Animals are important in my life
- _____ My home has a recycling system in place
- _____ I enjoy studying biology, botany and/or zoology
- _____ I spend a great deal of time outdoors

- _____ TOTAL for Section 1

Section 2

- _____ I easily pick up on patterns
- _____ I focus in on noise and sounds
- _____ Moving to a beat is easy for me
- _____ I've always been interested in playing an instrument
- _____ The cadence of poetry intrigues me
- _____ I remember things by putting them in a rhyme
- _____ Concentration is difficult while listening to a radio or television
- _____ I enjoy many kinds of music
- _____ Musicals are more interesting than dramatic plays
- _____ Remembering song lyrics is easy for me

- _____ TOTAL for Section 2

Module One: IT Careers Interest Inventory

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Page 9

Section 3

- _____ I keep my things neat and orderly
- _____ Step-by-step directions are a big help
- _____ Solving problems comes easily to me
- _____ I get easily frustrated with disorganized people
- _____ I can complete calculations quickly in my head
- _____ Puzzles requiring reasoning are fun
- _____ I can't begin an assignment until all my questions are answered
- _____ Structure helps me be successful
- _____ I find working on a computer spreadsheet or database rewarding
- _____ Things have to make sense to me or I am dissatisfied

- _____ TOTAL for Section 3

Section 4

- _____ It is important to see my role in the "big picture" of things
- _____ I enjoy discussing questions about life
- _____ Religion is important to me
- _____ I enjoy viewing art masterpieces
- _____ Relaxation and meditation exercises are rewarding
- _____ I like visiting breathtaking sites in nature
- _____ I enjoy reading ancient and modern philosophers
- _____ Learning new things is easier when I understand their value
- _____ I wonder if there are other forms of intelligent life in the universe
- _____ Studying history and ancient culture helps give me perspective

- _____ TOTAL for Section 4

Section 5

- _____ I learn best interacting with others
- _____ The more the merrier
- _____ Study groups are very productive for me
- _____ I enjoy chat rooms
- _____ Participating in politics is important
- _____ Television and radio talk shows are enjoyable
- _____ I am a "team player"
- _____ I dislike working alone
- _____ Clubs and extracurricular activities are fun
- _____ I pay attention to social issues and causes

- _____ TOTAL for Section 5

Module One: IT Careers Interest Inventory

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Page 10

Section 6

- _____ I enjoy making things with my hands
- _____ Sitting still for long periods of time is difficult for me
- _____ I enjoy outdoor games and sports
- _____ I value non-verbal communication such as sign language
- _____ A fit body is important for a fit mind
- _____ Arts and crafts are enjoyable pastimes
- _____ Expression through dance is beautiful
- _____ I like working with tools
- _____ I live an active lifestyle
- _____ I learn by doing

- _____ TOTAL for Section 6

Section 7

- _____ I enjoy reading all kinds of materials
- _____ Taking notes helps me remember and understand
- _____ I faithfully contact friends through letters and/or e-mail
- _____ It is easy for me to explain my ideas to others
- _____ I keep a journal
- _____ Word puzzles like crosswords and jumbles are fun
- _____ I write for pleasure
- _____ I enjoy playing with words like puns, anagrams and spoonerisms
- _____ Foreign languages interest me
- _____ Debates and public speaking are activities I like to participate in

- _____ TOTAL for Section 7

Section 8

- _____ I am keenly aware of my moral beliefs
- _____ I learn best when I have an emotional attachment to the subject
- _____ Fairness is important to me
- _____ My attitude effects how I learn
- _____ Social justice issues concern me
- _____ Working alone can be just as productive as working in a group
- _____ I need to know why I should do something before I agree to do it
- _____ When I believe in something I will give 100% effort to it
- _____ I like to be involved in causes that help others
- _____ I am willing to protest or sign a petition to right a wrong

- _____ TOTAL for Section 8

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Section 9

- _____ I can imagine ideas in my mind
- _____ Rearranging a room is fun for me
- _____ I enjoy creating art using varied media
- _____ I remember well using graphic organizers
- _____ Performance art can be very gratifying
- _____ Spreadsheets are great for making charts, graphs and tables
- _____ Three-dimensional puzzles bring me much enjoyment
- _____ Music videos are very stimulating
- _____ I can recall things in mental pictures
- _____ I am good at reading maps and blueprints

- _____ TOTAL for Section 9

Part II

Now carry forward your total from each section and multiply by 10 below:

Section	Total Forward	Multiply	Score
1		X10	
2		X10	
3		X10	
4		X10	
5		X10	
6		X10	
7		X10	
8		X10	
9		X10	

Next, plot your scores on the bar graph on the following page.

Part III: Plot your scores on this graph.

100									
90									
80									
70									
60									
50									
40									
30									
20									
10									
0	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4	Sec 5	Sec 6	Sec 7	Sec 8	Sec 9

Part IV: KEY

- Section 1 – This reflects your Naturalist strength
- Section 2 – This suggests your Musical strength
- Section 3 – This indicates your Logical strength
- Section 4 – This illustrates your Existential strength
- Section 5 – This shows your Interpersonal strength
- Section 6 – This tells your Kinesthetic strength
- Section 7 – This indicates your Verbal strength
- Section 8 – This reflects your Intrapersonal strength
- Section 9 – This suggests your Visual strength

Remember:



- Everyone has all the intelligences!
- You can strengthen an intelligence!
- This inventory is meant as a snapshot in time – it can change!
- M.I. is meant to empower, not label people!

Now that you've taken the Multiple Intelligences Inventory, here are some ideas about how you might explore a possible future in the world of IT. (The following profiles inspired by the work of Howard Gardner represent original work of the NWCET Staff.)

Naturalist Intelligence

A high score in this intelligence suggests that you like the outdoors and that you might like studying animals and natural systems. This intelligence suggests that you are good at noticing subtle differences, and that you are skilled in identifying patterns in the natural world.

IT JOBS:

- human interface designer in the field of **Computer Programming**
- **Computer Programmer** for artificial intelligence programs to help machines to learn patterns
- **Database Designer** programming machines to classify and categorize various kinds of information

IT-ENCHANCED JOBS:

Researchers in fields such as biology, botany (the study of plants), ecology (the study of natural systems), and in departments of environmental protection often need skills in:

- **Database Development** to organize and store data
- **Computer Programming** to develop computer programs that model natural systems

Much of the research in the natural sciences is published on the web, therefore it can be helpful to have skills in:

- **Website Design** and **Web Content Creation**

Musical Intelligence

Strength in this intelligence suggests that you are skilled in the performance, composition and appreciation of music. You might like expressing yourself through music.

IT JOBS:

- **Digital Media** in music production
- **Computer Programming**. The logic of music theory can translate into the logic of computer language and you might have good skills at representing abstract information symbolically.

IT ENHANCED JOBS:

- Beyond the world of IT, any career where you assist in the production of recorded sound, whether it's music or other effects, requires a background in IT today because so much of the equipment is digital. You can even find IT jobs with the local symphony or in a computer store that markets to musicians.

Logical/Mathematical Intelligence

Strength in this intelligence suggests that you are good at math and good at analyzing problems logically. If you love solving logical problems, developing your own theories about what's wrong, experimenting with different solutions, and developing original answers to problems, then you may enjoy:

IT JOBS:

- **Database Design**
- **Computer Programming**
- **Enterprise Systems Analysis and Integration**

If you like the challenges of solving problems through the process of testing various theories until you find the right answer, the following IT job areas might be fun for you, too.

- **Network Design and Administration**
- **Technical Support**

IT-ENHANCED JOBS:

- Logical/mathematical intelligences are very valuable in the world of scientific investigation. If you are interested in any kind of science, remember that almost all scientific research and experimentation involves the use of IT skills.

Existentialist Intelligence

If you scored high in this area, then you are probably interested in the big questions about humanity and our place in the world. You might be concerned about the role of people in organizations and how your organization's systems work. You may be referred to as a "systems thinker" because you tend to view large tasks from a perspective of how things work together and contribute to the overall whole.

IT JOBS:

- In the world of IT, you might be interested in **Enterprise Systems Analysis and Integration**, where it is helpful to see the whole picture or see systems with purpose.
- **Network Design and Administration** is also about building and maintaining a large "universe" and finding the proper place for everything in it.

IT-ENHANCED JOBS

- Beyond the world of IT, you might be interested in project management in any field where you are required to focus on the big picture and the role of people in it. Project management in any field will require skills in IT and the ability to understand the role of each "part" in the "whole."

Interpersonal Intelligence

Strength in this intelligence suggests that you have a good capacity to understand how other people work and what they want. Understanding motivations and intentions helps you to work effectively with people. If you scored high in this intelligence, you will probably be glad to know that the world of IT requires a lot of collaboration and working with people.

IT JOBS:

- You might be particularly suited to jobs like **Technical Support** where you have to understand how people work with the computer, or what they want the computer to do.
- You might be interested in the study of how people interact with computers and computer-related products. This is called usability studies, testing and designing user interfaces. User studies are an important part of almost every IT occupation, especially in **Database Design, Computer Programming, Technical Writing and Web Design**.
- **Network Administration** might appeal to your people interests as well since you help people maintain their computer systems within the network.

IT-ENHANCED JOBS:

- You might be interested in fields like sales, marketing, and/or training. These fields are especially active in the world of IT. IT is everywhere!

Bodily/Kinesthetic Intelligence

Strength in this intelligence suggests that you may work well with your hands developing products or tools. You may be particularly good at dance, acting or athletics.

IT JOBS:

- In the world of IT, **Computer Programming** and **Digital Media** projects where you are charged with developing animation and simulations. Designing and building computer games might be of interest to you, too. A good understanding of physical movement is important to bringing ideas to life in these endeavors.
- If you like working with your hands, you might like hands-on activities involving hardware and software installation and configuration, cabling and troubleshooting all are part of **Technical Support** and **Network Design and Administration**.

IT-ENHANCED JOBS:

- Beyond the world of IT, fields like recreational studies, physical therapy or sports medicine will all require IT skills.

Verbal/Linguistic Intelligence

You are sensitive to spoken and written language, and have good ability to learn and use language to accomplish your goals. A high score in this area implies an ability to express ideas in a logically structured sequence. The higher your score, the more likely it may be that you are able to represent abstract information logically.

IT JOBS:

- You could be a valuable asset on a **Computer Programming** team, or on a team of charged with object-oriented **Database Design**.
- Facility in language could make you good at delivery of information in the form of **Technical Writing**. Your skills would be in great demand where teams need to "document" (explain in written word) their products or develop web content.

IT-ENHANCED JOBS:

- Excellent language skills would help you to excel in the areas of publishing, marketing communications and training or education--all areas where IT skills are becoming essential.

Intrapersonal Intelligence

Strength in this intelligence suggests that you are in touch with your inner world of emotions and thoughts. You strive to understand yourself and know how to apply your talents to every situation. This kind of intelligence is adaptable to all job situations because understanding yourself will always help you to make better decisions about what careers you want to do or are willing to do. It implies that you could be a good decision maker.

IT JOBS:

- You could be effective in **Enterprise Systems Analysis and Integration** where you help companies move from old ways of running their business to new systems. Here, it is important to be able to make decisions to keep projects moving forward.

IT-ENHANCED JOBS

- If you scored high in intrapersonal intelligence, this strength combined with other intelligences could make you very adaptable. Beyond the world of IT, IT skills in general will be a valuable asset in any field in which you might be interested.

Visual/Spatial Intelligence

Your strength in visual/spatial intelligence suggests that you often think in pictures. You imagine concepts graphically or picture them in your mind's eye. You're probably good at creating and manipulating images, and you like organizing spatial elements and other objects on a page.

IT JOBS:

- These characteristics apply especially well to careers in **Web Development** and **Digital Media** where you design "look and feel," navigation, layout and artistic content for web-based projects.

IT-ENHANCED JOBS:

- Beyond the world of IT, any career involving graphics, 3-d modeling and simulation, or prototyping will all be enhanced with IT skills.