

Systems Analyst Skills

A systems analyst should have the following background and knowledge:

- **Knowledge of SDLC:** Essentially, the systems analyst performs systems analysis, systems design, systems implementation, and systems support for computer-based business applications.
- **Technical Knowledge:** An analyst does more than analyze and design systems. The analyst must be experienced in working with computers and must exploit the latest technological innovations.
- **Programming Knowledge:** He or she must have enough computer experience to program, to understand the capabilities of computers, to glean information requirements from users, and to communicate what is needed to programmers.
- **Problem Solver:** The analyst is a problem solver. He or she must have the capability to take a large business problem, break that problem down into its component parts, analyze various aspects of the problem, and then assemble a system to solve the problem. Analysts must be able to creatively define alternative solutions to problems and needs.
- **Knowledge of Tools and Techniques:** The analyst plays many roles, sometimes balancing several at the same time. He or she is a person who views the analysis of problems as a challenge and who enjoys devising workable solutions. When necessary, the analyst must be able to systematically tackle the situation at hand through skillful application of tools, techniques, and experience.
- **Good Communicator:** The analyst must be a good communicator – capable of relating meaningfully to other people over extended periods of time. He or she must be able to work with people of all descriptions. The analyst must be willing and able to deal with his or her business clients (end-users), business management, programmers, information system management, auditors, and information system salespeople.

- **Teamwork:** System analysts work in teams, and so the ability to function as part of a team, to cooperate and compromise, is critical for the success of most projects.
- **Business Knowledge:** The system analyst need to have some general business knowledge, so that he or she can communicate with business experts to gain knowledge of problems and needs.