

# Computer Hardware Engineer

## What is it?

Computer Hardware Engineers (often called IT Service Engineers in the UK) are responsible for installing, repairing, and maintaining computer systems and equipment. They ensure that hardware such as servers, desktops, laptops, and peripherals are functioning correctly and securely.

## Qualifications/Experience Required:

A college course in computing or IT can help you find a trainee role. You could also complete a **Level 3 Advanced Apprenticeship** such as **Information Communications Technician** or **Digital Support Technician**. Entry typically requires 4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C), including English, maths, and computing. Industry certifications like **CompTIA A+**, **Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate**, or **ITIL** are also valuable for career progression.

## What the Work Involves:

- Installing and upgrading computer systems and hardware.
- Diagnosing and repairing faults in equipment.
- Performing routine maintenance to prevent future issues.
- Documenting systems and procedures for support teams.
- Ensuring systems meet security and performance standards.

## Future Prospects – Labour Market Information:

With experience, you could progress to roles such as **Service Supervisor**, **Network Engineer**, or **IT Security Specialist**. There are also opportunities in **database administration**, **technical sales**, and **project management**. Some professionals choose to start their own IT support businesses. Keeping up with industry developments through professional training is key to long-term success.

## Typical weekly hours – 39 to 41 hours per week.

*Shifts may include **on-call duties**, evenings, or weekends depending on the employer.*

## Type of person who may be suited to this job:

- Technically minded and good with problem-solving.
- Comfortable working with tools and technology.
- Able to work independently and as part of a team.
- Good communication and customer service skills.
- Organised and detail oriented.

## Money/Wage Guide:

- **Starting Salary: £22,000**
- **Experienced Salary: Up to £33,000**
- **Average UK Salary (2024): £37,430 (across all jobs)**

## Related Opportunities:

- **Network Engineer**
- **IT Support Technician**
- **Cybersecurity Analyst**
- **Technical Sales Engineer**

## Further Information:

- [National Careers Service – IT Service Engineer](#)
- [Careerpilot – IT Service Engineer](#)