Organizations in this industry cluster focus on a variety of products and services relating to computers, electronics, and information technology. This includes developing and manufacturing products like computer hardware and software, database systems, and mobile applications. Other organizations also focus on providing consulting and IT services to businesses. While startup companies exist in a variety of different industries, many are associated with the technology sector or are hiring for technical positions.

RESOURCES AT BOSTON COLLEGE

- Edmund H. Shea Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship
- Start@Shea
- Venture Competitions
- Computer Science Society
- Information Systems Academy

SKILLS REQUIRED

- Programming Skills: Python, Java, HTML, SQL
- Flexibility & Adaptability (especially for Startups)
- Attention to Detail
- Teamwork

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & JOB SEARCH SITES

- Boston Startups Guide: bostonstartupsguide.com
- Built in Boston: builtinboston.com
- Mass Technology Leadership Council: masstlc.org
- Dice: dice.com
- Angel List: angel.co
- IEEE: ieee.org
- CompTIA: comptia.org
- Venture for America: ventureforamerica.org

JOB SEARCH & INTERVIEW PROCESS

Internships help you gain experience, as do class projects, team competitions, and even personal tech projects such as building your own website or mobile app. Teach yourself a programming language. Get involved in hackathons to build your programming and teamwork skills. All of these experiences – both formal and informal – can and should be included on your resume, in cover letters, and in interviews, as appropriate.

When working at a startup, it is common for each employee to be involved in a variety of functions within the organization. While you may be hired to focus primarily on one function (e.g. software development), because of the small size of the staff, you may also be called upon to participate in marketing, hiring, or other activities. With this in mind, you should also think of examples of collaboration and flexibility to share in the job search and interview process.

For programming-focused and other technical positions, it is common for interviewers to use a technical interview format where they might ask you to demonstrate your coding skills. As with all interviews, preparation and practice are key. Stay calm and code on.
Jobs in this industry vary and can focus on different aspects of technology: creation, maintenance, and management. Designers, developers, engineers, and programmers all work to create and build different products and services. They may focus on hardware, systems, software applications, or internet applications.

**Product manager** – Supervise staff and oversee a project timeline. Upper management roles are often the chief information officer (CIO) or chief technology officer (CTO).

**Software Development and IT** – An abundance of opportunities exist at organizations ranging in size from startups to large, multi-national organizations, government as well as private sector. Be prepared for technical interviews, which employers use to understand a candidate’s technical knowledge as well as the candidate’s ability to solve problems.

**Startups** – Fit is key when you are adding an employee to a very small team: Are you willing to wear multiple hats? Do you believe in the product or service? Because fit is so important, networking is a crucial strategy for finding a job at a startup. If you are interested in launching your own venture, you might consider incubator or accelerator programs.

Other roles keep the technology and systems working. Common positions include systems analysts, desktop support positions, security specialists, database managers, and webmasters.

Please Note: This handout is intended to be a sampling of resources. For additional information, please schedule an appointment through EagleLink.