

IBM Computer Emergency Response Team

A computer emergency response team is a center of technical wizards who deal with the intrusions, the viruses, other various threats and attacks that plague an organization's computerized information systems.

The IBM Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) was created in 1988 to handle a variety of destructive viruses. At the same time, the U.S. Federal government funded a CERT which was put in place at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to deal with attacks on the Internet.

The IBM team provides service to IBM facilities worldwide, and to some of the Fortune 500 companies which are demanding help on Networking Security as well as severe virus problems.

The security arena contains a varied job menu. It takes a very special person with far-reaching security skills to assess the needs of a particular company. There is a bright future for leading-edge specialists as the corporate world needs to be ever more productive, ever safer. The career path offers challenge and excitement.

In the following I will break down the jobs involved in this kind of high-tech security work and classify them from the ones with the most advanced requirements to the ones closest to entry level.

Scientific Researcher

This job level requires the highest skills, typically a Ph.D. The person has to do very sophisticated research work in modeling the threat, getting out ahead of the threat, and analyze the patterns of vulnerabilities in the systems. It is expected that the scientific researcher comes up with a long-term solution to deal with these kind of problems.

Senior Technical Analyst

This is a technical expert who usually has a masters degree in computer science. He deals with emergency intrusions, and is an intrusion or virus expert. From him or her it is expected that they have thorough knowledge of incidents, operating systems, and network environments. A senior technical analyst is a very important person, who can detect what is happening when a virus is spread, knows who is intruding on whom, and what countermeasures will bring the situation into line when there is an emergency situation. Inter-personal relationship is a strong plus here too, because you are helping someone in a desperate situation, and it is very