FBI TECHNICAL TALENT: An Inside Look

Around the clock and around the world, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) relies on its team of Computer Scientists, Computer Engineers, Data Analysts and Scientists, IT Specialists and Network Administrators (collectively known as Technical Talent) to keep the agency’s systems running in order to secure American secrets, infrastructure, finances and lives.

The FBI’s Technical Talent, often working in tandem with Special Agents, Intelligence Analysts, Forensic Experts and others, provide their expertise to keep the nation’s networks and systems safe across the cyber spectrum, defeating malware attacks, investigating major computer intrusions and rooting out international espionage.

Today these challenging technological threats — terrorism, intelligence and criminal — are becoming more sophisticated and aggressive, and are the paramount priorities of the FBI’s cyber mission.

A Growing Threat

The collective impact is staggering. Billions of dollars are lost every year repairing systems hit by cyber attacks. Some attacks paralyze vital systems, disrupting and disabling medical and financial record systems and 9-1-1 services.

These attacks run the gamut from:
» Terrorists looking to steal vital information or launch cyber strikes.
» Criminals stealing personal information to sell on the black market or to spies.
» Businesses seeking to gain an edge by hacking competitor websites.
» Hackers looking for bragging rights.

The key is to know how to protect in an increasingly internet-connected world.

Technical Talent Needed

Protecting the country from criminal and national security threats remains constant. Meeting challenges imposed by rapid advancements in technology requires adaptability and a diverse workforce of technical support talent in conjunction with other career paths across the agency.

Computer Scientists Work as part of highly collaborative investigative teams with agents, analysts and others to stop cyber attacks, counterintelligence plots, fraud, bank robberies and more.

Computer Engineers Embed computers in machines and systems, build networks to transfer data and develop ways to make systems faster, smaller and more capable.

Electronics Technicians Install and maintain critical electronics and communication systems that can help save a child’s life or avert a terrorist attack.

Network Administrators Keep the FBI’s computer systems up to date and running smoothly; maintain, repair and upgrade systems; diagnose and fix hardware and software problems; and monitor the network and systems to improve performance.

Data Analysts and Scientists Use quantitative and qualitative analysis tools and data visualization techniques to help Intelligence Analysts, Special Agents and FBI law enforcement partners spot trends and discover critical connections throughout the investigative process.

IT Specialists Provide IT technical analysis and guidance to ensure FBI law enforcement systems are up to date and available for use by FBI Field Offices, as well as domestic and international law enforcement partners.

IT Specialists — Forensic Examiners Provide forensic examinations and analysis of computer-related digital evidence and provide technical guidance to others involved in investigations to ensure precautions are taken to prevent data and equipment damage.

At the FBI, we’re looking for Technical Talent, as well as ethical hackers with backgrounds in digital forensics, information security, computer security, software engineering, database development, enterprise computing, mathematics, data science and analytics and network management — to combat the ever-growing cyber threat.
Becoming an FBI Employee Takes Dedication

The role of an FBI employee is a demanding and rewarding job and requires stringent entry qualifications. Those who complete the process become part of an elite team that keeps our country safe.

Minimum Qualifications You must:
- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be able to obtain a Top-Secret Clearance.
- Meet all positive education requirements.

Automatic Disqualifiers
- Non-U.S. citizenship.
- Conviction of a felony.
- Violation of the FBI Employment Drug Policy.
- Default on a student loan insured by the U.S. government.
- Failure of an FBI-administered drug test.
- Failure to register with the Selective Service System (males only).
- Knowingly or willfully engaged in acts or activities designed to overthrow the U.S. government by force.
- Failure to pay court-ordered child support.
- Failure to file income tax returns.

Applicant Process

If you’re inspired by our mission and eager to start a career like no other, here’s what you need to know about the application process:

STEP 1 INFORM & APPLY
Visit FBIJobs.gov to view careers and open positions.

STEP 2 INTERVIEW & SELECTION
The hiring process varies depending on the job. For careers like Special Agent or Intelligence Analyst, the hiring process can take a year or more.

STEP 3 CONDITIONAL JOB OFFER & BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION
Once accepted, you will undergo an intensive background investigation including:
- Polygraph examination.
- Drug test.
- Credit and records checks.
- Interviews with former and current colleagues, neighbors, friends, etc.

STEP 4 FINAL JOB OFFER & ONBOARDING
Once accepted, all new employees attend Quantico for a short new employee introduction course. Employees in Special Agent, Intelligence Analyst or other identified positions will remain at Quantico for job-related training.