

## Career Pathway Spotlight

# Discover a Career as a Data Center Technician



## Discover your career in energy!

Data center technicians install, maintain, and troubleshoot the servers, networks, and infrastructure inside the facilities that power the cloud, modern websites, and the AI systems people use every day.

### Hyperscale and Cloud Data Centers

Inside hyperscale facilities run by cloud providers, data center technicians install, swap, and maintain the thousands of servers, switches, and storage arrays that power major websites, streaming services, and AI training workloads across the country and the world.

### Enterprise and Colocation Facilities

In corporate data centers and colocation sites that host customer equipment, technicians rack and cable servers, manage cooling and power systems, and respond to alarms around the clock, keeping banks, hospitals, and government systems online, secure, and available.

### Edge and High-Performance Computing

At edge sites near factories and cities, and inside high-performance computing clusters used for science and AI research, technicians install specialized servers, networking gear, and liquid cooling systems designed for the dense, power-hungry workloads of next-generation computing.

## CAREER PATH

### Start with:

- » A high school diploma or GED

### Get Educated:

- » A community college or bachelor's degree in IT
- » Apprenticeships, bootcamps, or manufacturer training programs
- » A military IT pathway with relevant experience (e.g., Army IT Specialist (25B) or Navy IT Specialist)

### Specialize With:

#### Certificates or credentials

- » CompTIA A+, Network+, and Server+ certifications
- » Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- » Data Center Certified Associate (DCCA) credentials

#### Knowledge in:

- » Server and hardware systems
- » Networking and connectivity
- » Cooling and power systems
- » Cybersecurity and system monitoring
- » Cloud and high-performance computing environments

## OCCUPATIONAL SKILLS

- » Strong technical curiosity and willingness to learn
- » Sharp attention to detail under time pressure
- » Clear written and verbal communication skills
- » Strong problem-solving and methodical troubleshooting skills
- » Physical stamina for active, on-feet work in cold facilities
- » Adaptability across shifts, sites, and changing technology
- » Comfort following safety, security, and access procedures

## BENEFITS

### These energy industry careers offer:

- » Strong, growing demand from the AI and cloud surge
- » Competitive pay and shift differentials
- » Growth into engineer and manager roles
- » Specialize in hardware, networks, security, or cloud
- » Hands-on technology work with clear career growth

# What Might You Do As A Data Center Technician?

## ENTRY LEVEL

1-4 years

### What you will do:

- » Racking and cabling servers, switches, and storage arrays under supervision
- » Replacing failed hard drives, power supplies, and network cards on a schedule
- » Running daily walk-throughs to check equipment, alarms, and environmental sensors
- » Logging tickets and incidents in the data center management system carefully
- » Helping with cooling system checks, UPS testing, and routine security audits
- » Following access control, badge, and strict physical security procedures daily

## MID- CAREER

5-8 years

- » Independently installing new server racks, networking gear, and storage hardware
- » Troubleshooting hardware, network, and operating system issues across customer environments
- » Using AI-assisted monitoring tools to spot anomalies, alarms, and capacity issues early
- » Planning and executing maintenance windows, firmware upgrades, and infrastructure migrations
- » Coordinating with cooling, electrical, and security teams on every major change
- » Training entry-level technicians and reviewing their tickets and field work

## EXPERIENCED

8+ years

- » Leading large data center deployments, migrations, and major retrofits
- » Designing capacity plans for AI training, cloud, and high-performance computing growth
- » Driving security, change management, and compliance programs across multiple sites
- » Adopting new technology like AI ops platforms, liquid cooling, and high-density compute infrastructure
- » Coordinating with cloud customers, engineering teams, and facility partners
- » Mentoring mid-career technicians and shaping training and certification pathways

### What knowledge, skills and abilities will you need to succeed?

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Listen and follow directions from senior technicians and supervisors</li> <li>» Comfort lifting equipment, working in cold rooms, and long shifts</li> <li>» Basic understanding of computer hardware, networking, and operating systems</li> <li>» Strong attention to detail when wiring and labeling equipment</li> <li>» Eagerness to earn CompTIA, Cisco, or cloud-vendor certifications</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Active CompTIA, Cisco, or cloud-vendor specific certifications</li> <li>» Working knowledge of server hardware, networks, and operating systems</li> <li>» Fluency in monitoring tools, ticketing systems, and scripting basics</li> <li>» Clear communication with operations, security, and customer teams</li> <li>» Composure during outages, alarms, and high-pressure restoration events</li> <li>» Familiarity with data center cooling, power, and access control systems</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Deep expertise across hardware, networking, and large data center infrastructure</li> <li>» Leadership and people-management skills for multi-shift teams</li> <li>» Strategic communication with executives, customers, and vendors</li> <li>» Strong financial judgment for capacity and capital decisions</li> <li>» Mastery of change management as AI and cloud evolve</li> <li>» Senior credentials such as Cisco CCIE, CDCEP, or AWS Architect</li> </ul> |
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## GET PAID!

### Entry Level:

- » \$41,600 / year\*

### As You Gain Seniority:

- » \$55,000 / year\*

### Later in Your Career:

- » \$93,600 / year\*

\*Source: Zip Recruiter (May 2026). These figures are based on aggregate job posting data because the role is not included in the United States Energy & Employment Report and has no precise match in BLS OEWS. Compensation figures should be used as a guide; actual compensation may vary depending on education, geography, experience, and many other factors.



## ENERGY INDUSTRY CAREERS OFFER:

- » Excellent salaries
- » Opportunities for advancement
- » Job growth & stability
- » Professional development and training
- » Great benefits

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