

Emerging IT Career Evidence Guide

NAME _____

DATE _____

PERIOD _____

Pick one career. The BLS evidence below is dated and uses one national measure: **May 2024 median annual pay** and **projected employment growth from 2024 to 2034**. A median is not starting pay, and a national number is not a DFW salary.

An **exact match** means the BLS occupation closely matches the title. A **proxy** is a broader occupation used because BLS does not report the selected title separately. A proxy can add context, but its numbers do not describe the exact title. A missing BLS title does not prove that a career is new.

Evidence Cards

AI OR MACHINE LEARNING ENGINEER — PROXY

BLS occupation: Computer and Information Research Scientists

Typical preparation: At least a master's degree is typical; some federal roles may accept a bachelor's degree.

May 2024 U.S. median: \$140,910

Projected growth, 2024-34: 20%

Why the work is changing: BLS connects demand to research that turns ideas into new computing technology. The source does not report AI Engineer separately.

Source: bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-and-information-research-scientists.htm

CLOUD ARCHITECT — PROXY

BLS occupation: Computer Network Architects

Typical preparation: Bachelor's degree plus related work experience is typical.

May 2024 U.S. median: \$130,390

Projected growth, 2024-34: 12%

Why the work is changing: BLS identifies cloud-computing expansion and AI-related infrastructure upgrades as demand drivers. The source covers network architects broadly.

Source: bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/computer-network-architects.htm

INFORMATION SECURITY ANALYST — EXACT BLS OCCUPATION

Typical preparation: Bachelor's degree is typical; related experience is common.

May 2024 U.S. median: \$124,910

Projected growth, 2024-34: 29%

Why the work is changing: Organizations continue responding to cyberattacks and protecting networks and information.

Source: bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/information-security-analysts.htm

DATA SCIENTIST — EXACT BLS OCCUPATION

Typical preparation: Bachelor's degree is typical; some employers prefer graduate study.

May 2024 U.S. median: \$112,590

Projected growth, 2024-34: 34%

Why the work is changing: Organizations are collecting more data and using it for decisions and predictions.

Source: bls.gov/ooh/math/data-scientists.htm

UX DESIGNER — CLOSEST BLS OCCUPATION

BLS occupation: Web and Digital Interface Designers

Typical preparation: Requirements vary from a high school diploma to a bachelor's degree; employers also look for demonstrated skills.

May 2024 U.S. median: \$98,090 for web and digital interface designers

Projected growth, 2024-34: 7%

Why the work is changing: BLS connects demand to e-commerce and interfaces that work across mobile devices and screen sizes.

Source: bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/web-developers.htm

DRONE SOFTWARE DEVELOPER — PROXY

BLS occupation: Software Developers

Typical preparation: Bachelor's degree is typical.

May 2024 U.S. median: \$133,080

Projected growth, 2024-34: 16%

Why the work is changing: BLS connects software demand to AI, connected devices, robotics, automation, and products that increasingly depend on software. The source does not report drone developers separately.

Source: bls.gov/ooh/computer-and-information-technology/software-developers.htm

Source Rules

- Record the BLS occupation, not only the career title you selected.
- Copy the year with every pay number and the year range with every growth rate.
- Label exact match, closest occupation, or proxy.
- Explain the changing technology, demand, or work task. Do not use a missing title as the only reason.
- Xello may be used as an optional DFW salary cross-check when the exact career, geography, pay measure, and date are visible. Keep it in a separate local-evidence note; do not replace or relabel the national BLS number.

Source check: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Outlook Handbook pages above, accessed August 9, 2026.