

# Being a System IT Architect

By: Richard Sinclair

I interviewed Jason Sinclair, a current IT System Architect at Nationwide, I asked him a few questions about what he does and how it helps people with their life. At his job, his task is making sure that the systems they create are efficient and costs low. They have periodic architecture analysis and “roadmaps” where they sync up business and customer needs, and watch for opportunities to use newer technology solutions. That keeps the customer’s cost low and helps Nationwide respond quickly to their needs. Of course with any job there are some difficulties, Jason says that “It is sometimes difficult helping the company move from older technologies to new ones”. For example, moving some of their applications systems to the cloud takes a lot of complex planning and a strong understanding of what the needs of the customers and insurance agents are. Timing and costs, as well as skills needed for designing them.

Jason is working on designing a cloud architecture certification to help with these challenges. This job is very difficult, which is why he had to stay in college until he got a masters degree which took a lot of endurance. To work at Nationwide you will need at least one of these several skill sets: technology expertise, systems and programming, an ability to understand how many systems interact together and why they are used (not just how). It usually requires a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in technology study. It also takes many years of experience. At Jason’s level it will take a minimum of 14 or 15 years, but that can depend. Other relevant skill sets include IT security, enterprise architecture, project management, database design, administration, and the ability to model in multiple perspectives, depending on who the audience is looking at it. A example is that most business people do not want to see deep technical words, and many can’t understand them, so they create a visual model they can understand and act on.

This job is hard to understand at sometimes, which is why you need to have a great education. If you are interested at getting this job, Jason said, “If you are interested in this job

make sure to have a good understanding of the company you want to work for, and what they do, how they do it, and why. Have a solid technical background. If you are just starting, look for an internship to gain experience. Have a good communication skill, learn to talk to anyone even if you aren't getting this job. Care about the people you work with, customers, and whoever it may be". Remember, never give up, never stop learning, and never assume you know everything. If you are hoping to get a job, make sure to research whatever job you want, and get into a good school that will provide the right education to get that job. This job is difficult to get, but that doesn't mean that it will be impossible to get that job.