

## Overview

This sub-discipline Network Planning (901) is concerned with the competencies required for network planning in order to ensure that the business has a resilient information systems network infrastructure so that data may be passed in a timely manner to support service provision.

Network infrastructure is comprised of the necessary hardware and software components that are necessary to establish any kind of network over any type of transmission medium which will support the provision of IT services, systems and assets. This requires not only technical knowledge of individual hardware and software network products and services (or any combination of these) but also the architectural principles, standards and protocols that must be applied within the development of the infrastructure.

Individuals working within this area should have a broad knowledge of all aspects of networking in order to develop plans for the development of network infrastructure services that take into consideration all areas that may affect the business.

Working in the senior professional network planning role (9015) is primarily focussed on creating and managing the optimal network planning to align with organisational strategy. This includes the management of the relationships with external suppliers for network infrastructure planning.

## Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. plan the design, development and optimisation of the network infrastructure to meet changing business requirements
2. implement the processes, tools and techniques to develop network infrastructure service plans in line with the business needs, service operation objectives and service strategy
3. implement the network planning strategy, policies, processes and procedures to support effective network infrastructures
4. review the plans, benefits and business case developed by the network planning team to provide critical and effective feedback
5. train team members to be proficient in a range of network planning tools
6. monitor and report on network planning project status including deliverables, total effort, elapsed time, risk, complexity and cost in line with organisational procedures
7. analyse and interpret changing business requirements to optimise the network infrastructure
8. make recommendations to senior management on how network infrastructure services could be improved to meet changing organisational requirements
9. make well-reasoned decisions on how and when to use external providers of network infrastructure planning services
10. select the preferred external providers of network infrastructure planning services in line with organisational procedures
11. negotiate and contract with external providers of network infrastructure planning services, in line with organisational procedures
12. monitor the quality and effectiveness of external providers of network infrastructure in line with organisational procedures and timescales
13. recommend action where appropriate, to improve quality and effectiveness of external providers of network infrastructure
14. identify potential implications of planning for network infrastructure services that make use of external infrastructure products such as hardware and software products and services in line with organisational requirements
15. advise and guide others as required on applying best practices in network planning services

## Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. the impact that network infrastructure has on internal and external service offerings
2. how to plan the optimisation of the network environment
3. how to implement network quality improvement programmes
4. the range of current network planning tools, techniques and methodologies, their strengths and weaknesses
5. how to communicate organisational network requirements to stakeholders
6. how to maintain own knowledge of network infrastructure service developments
7. how to review network planning project progress
8. how to analyse organisational requirements for network infrastructure services
9. when and how to use external providers for network infrastructure design and planning activities
10. the issues involved with the outsourcing of network planning activities
11. the organisational strategy and policies relating to network infrastructure planning activities and their deliverables
12. the range of all relevant legislation, regulations and external standards relating to network infrastructure services planning
13. the internal and external factors to be considered when sourcing and applying the best practice in network infrastructure planning

## Manage Network Infrastructure Services Planning

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