

INTP ***Introverted - Intuitive - Thinking - Perceiving***
“Ingenious Problem Solvers”

As an INTP, career satisfaction means doing work that:

1. Lets me develop, analyze, and critique new ideas.
2. Lets me focus my attention and energy on a creative, theoretical, and logical process, rather than on an end product.
3. Is challenging and deals with complex problems, where I am able to try unconventional approaches, and take risks to find the best solution.
4. Lets me work independently with plenty of quiet, private time to concentrate and complete my thinking process.
5. Lets me set and maintain my own high standards for my work and determine how my performance will be evaluated and compensated.
6. Is done in a flexible, non-structured environment, without useless rules, excessive limitations, or unnecessary meetings.
7. Lets me interact with a small group of highly regarded friends and associates, all of whom I respect.
8. Gives me opportunities to constantly increase my own personal competence and power and lets me meet and interact with other powerful and successful people.
9. Lets me develop ingenious ideas and plans and lets me delegate the implementation and follow-through to an efficient support staff.
10. Does not require me to spend time directly organizing other people or supervising or mediating interpersonal differences.

Work-related strengths and weaknesses of INTPs include:

STRENGTHS:

Able to analyze problems with great insight.
Architects of creative ideas and systems.
Enjoy situations where they have opportunity to learn and master new skills and knowledge.
Able to work alone, and concentrate well.
Good at long-range thinking.

WEAKNESSES:

May be unrealistic about application of ideas.
Ideas may be too complex for others to understand.
May lose interest and not apply selves to follow through.
Have little tolerance for redundancy or detailed work.
May be insensitive to feelings of others, critical, and demanding.

Popular Occupations for INTPs

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Computer software designer
- Computer programmer
- Research and development specialist
- Systems analyst/data base manager
- Strategic planner
- New market or product conceptualizer

The field of planning and development offers INTPs the opportunity to do what they do best – analyze problems and develop innovative solutions. Most INTPs enjoy working in technical areas, using their ability to understand complex systems and to find ways to eliminate errors or weaknesses.

They easily see how the product, services, or system fits within the context of the whole company, industry, or technology and enjoy creating new, more efficient ways of doing things.

MEDICAL/TECHNICAL

- Neurologist
- Physicist
- Plastic surgeon
- Pharmacist
- Scientist: chemistry/biology

These fields of medicine and other scientific technologies make good use of INTPs excellent reasoning skills and facility with technical material. The rapidly growing areas of neurology and plastic surgery are often interesting to INTPs because they are able to be on the cutting edge and be involved innovation, which usually carries some amount of risk. Physics, chemistry, and biology offer opportunities to work with complex concepts, constantly learn new things, and repeatedly ask the question “What if?” These careers, especially when they involve a strong research component, allow the INTP to work independently. Because they are difficult and competitive fields, they tend to attract other intellectual and gifted people, which INTPs find stimulating.

PROFESSIONAL

- Lawyer
- Economist
- Psychologist
- Financial analyst
- Architect
- Investigator

These professional careers also offer INTPs plenty of opportunities to analyze and solve complex problems. Often extremely challenging, these careers require clear, logical thinking and innovative approaches to problems and challenges. The creative process is central to the work of both the architect and the psychologist. Seeing how one element or event fits into an overall pattern or system is a particular strength of INTPs and is a frequent aspect of the work of an investigator and financial analyst. From developing flawless legal strategies to forecasting subtle yet powerful economic trends, these professions offer the excitement and personal challenge INTPs thrive on.

ACADEMIC

- Archaeologist
- Mathematician
- Historian
- Philosopher
- College teacher of advanced student
- Researcher
- Logician
- College faculty administrator

The stimulating world of academia is one frequently enjoyed by INTPs . Because there is an emphasis on exploring and considering new and different approaches, INTPs often find career satisfaction in the role of college professor. They usually prefer teaching the more advanced and challenging student and courses. INTPs often enjoy the research element in any of the subject areas above and enjoy the opportunity to work alone and then share their insights and innovations with their intellectual peers. They work best when not restricted by excessive rules and bureaucracy, which many large universities and colleges are unable to avoid.

CREATIVE

- Photographer
- Creative writer
- Artist
- Entertainer/dancer
- Musician
- Agent
- Inventor

One of the strongest attractions for INTPs to these careers is the chance to create something entirely original. INTPs enjoy the creative process of working with different mediums and the variety of people and experiences they have access to. INTPs usually enjoy working alone or with small numbers of talented people who bring something different to the process. Depending upon their area and their interest in expressing their art, INTPs can enjoy performance. But they don't necessarily need to perform their works to find satisfaction in them. Many INTPs are inspired by the world of creative people and enjoy working as an agent. And their ability to create innovative and clever products or services often gives them success as inventors.

Excerpt from Do What You Are: Discover the Perfect Career For You Through The Secrets of Personality Type; Paul D. Tiger & Barbara Barron-Tieger.