

# COMPARING THE IMPORTANCE OF IT JOB SKILLS IN AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES

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## ABSTRACT

*Information technology (IT) educators face the two converging trends of globalization and IT human resource scarcity. These two trends challenge IT educators to understand how skill requirements differ in the global economy. In an attempt to facilitate this understanding, the study reported here investigates the question of how the skill requirements for recent IT graduates vary across two countries; Australia and the United States. Employers in each country were surveyed to determine the importance they place on various skills when evaluating entry-level IT employees. Results indicate that there are a number of similarities across the two countries. However, further analysis reveals that while the relative importance of various categories of skills are similar across the countries, the magnitude of differences in the mean ratings of various skill categories differs. The differences in mean ratings tend to be more significant in Australia than in the United States. The results of this study hold implications for both employers and IT educators.*