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A recent survey conducted by the [Information Technology Alliance](#) (ITA), an independent membership association of leading mid-market technology professionals, consultants and product/service providers in North America, confirms that CPA Firm CIOs plan to hire more IT staff for the remainder of 2015. The survey included responses from chief information officers or their equivalents from the ITA's CPA Firm membership. These 25 firms are all ranked in the top 50 of *Accounting Today's* annual Top 100 Firms survey.

"The demand for qualified IT staff within accounting firms is at an all-time high across the accounting industry," said John Bowles, chief information officer for Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP in Charlotte, North Carolina, and chairman of the ITA CIO Academy. "Higher salary demands for IT staff will make a significant impact in the overall budgets for these firms."

Survey findings found the following IT staffing trends for 2015:

- As a whole, the accounting industry demand for IT resources are higher in 2015, and the salary expectations of candidates are higher.
- In 2014, the surveyed firms budgeted for an average of 61 IT staff; in 2015, that number is predicted to rise to 67 IT staff.
- On average, there is one IT staff person per 38 people within an accounting firm. This number has remained consistent since 2013.
- Finding qualified IT professionals with deep technical skills such as SharePoint and .Net developers is taking more time than it did in the past.

- The increase in IT staffing is partially attributed to the need for additional IT

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The ITA is an independent, not-for-profit, professional association of leading CPA firms, consulting firms and technology vendors whose purpose is to share information and build relationships that improve the way its member firms, and their clients, do business. Because the ITA membership roster consists of some of the most highly regarded mid-market technology professionals, consultants and product/service providers, ITA often employs its collective influence to act as an authoritative voice for the IT profession. The ITA membership shares the common goal of providing products and/or services to the small- and mid-sized business community. For more information on ITA, go to www.italliance.com.

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