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How To Build A Career In Cybersecurity

Hosted by Chloé Messdaghi
Featuring David Maynor

You're Going to Learn...

- An overview of the different career paths in cybersecurity

- The specific skills you need for each role

- Who's hiring - the top 5 industries in need of cybersecurity professionals

- Steps you can take to ensure success in finding a job

Who Are We, Anyway?

Chloé Messdaghi
Chief Impact Officer at Cybrary

David Maynor
Sr. Director of Threat Intelligence at Cybrary

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How I Got My Start

- Started out with vulnerability management in 2017

- Bug bounties and vulnerability policies by 2018-2019

- Hacker rights and security practices by 2020

- Advocacy and human rights - Forbes, SC Media

- Awards in infosec and tech in 2021

- Today - breaking down industry barriers and advising companies on security best practices

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Quick Introduction: Cybrary

- The leading training platform for cybersecurity practitioners

- Over 3 million users

- Information shared in today's training can all be found on our learning platform: career paths, skills training, entry-level content

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It's a Great Time to Join Cybersecurity!

- Tons of open roles: 0% unemployment, 33% growth rate by 2030

- Why? Faster and more sophisticated attacks

- Average salary for SOC I with <1 year of experience in SF is $91,500

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What's holding people back?

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Common Reasons

- Not knowing where to start!

- Years of experience listed in job postings

- Feeling like you're "too old" to make the switch

- Lack of accessible training resources for newcomers

- Understanding the industry and the different roles

- Concerns about transitioning from non-technical roles

- Not thinking you're good enough (impostor syndrome)
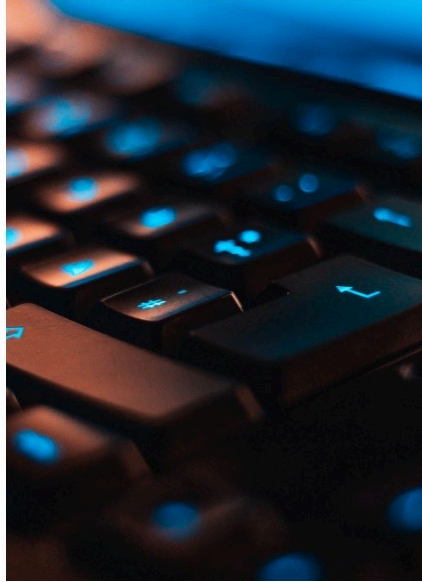
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What Does Success Look Like?

- Identifying the career path that might best suit you

- A clear understanding of what you need to accomplish before you start applying for jobs

- The rewarding feeling of protecting people's privacy

- A lot of fun!

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The Framework
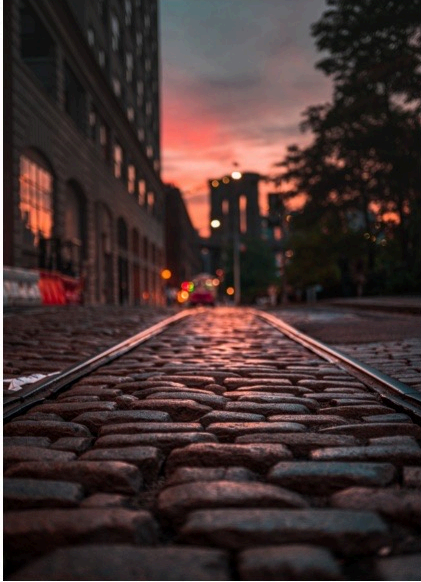
Choose your path

Develop your skills

Identify your ideal organization

Successfully find a job

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Choosing Your Path

- Overview of cybersecurity roles

- Deep dive into top entry-level roles

- Personality types

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Role Overview

- ## Pentester
  Uncovers vulnerabilities that hackers might exploit

- ## SOC Analyst
  Monitors data to identify suspicious activity

- ## SysAdmin
  Configures and maintains systems

- ## Network Administrator
  Configures network equipment, maintains, troubleshoots

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Top Entry-Level Roles

Pentester

- Uncovers vulnerabilities that hackers might exploit

- Technical, requires practice

- Bug bounties are a great place to start

- Different domains for specialization

- Can further specialize or lead teams

SOC Analyst

- Monitors data to identify suspicious activity

- Less technical

- Great starting point in cybersecurity career; learn about everything coming in

- 3 tiers of seniority and experience

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Which Type Are You?

Pentester

- Likes to break things to see how they work

- Overwhelming curiosity

- Plays more offensively when playing chess

SOC Analyst

- Tends to notice small details others don't when watching movies

- Comfortably suspicious

- Enjoys closely monitoring stock charts

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Developing Your Skills

- Finding your why

- Cybersecurity skill myths

- Skills breakdown by role

Finding Your Why

- Why are you interested in cybersecurity?

- What motivates you?

- Remind yourself when unmotivated or doubting yourself

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Myths Busted

- ## You need to know how to code to be a pentester

  False: You just need to be curious and find the right entry points to keep the company protected (through breaking things)

- ## You need to have a college degree or masters in cybersecurity to get hired

  False: Unless it's for a very specialized field, hands-on practice and certifications will suffice

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Skills

Pentester

General Technical Skills

- Networking: Models (OSI, TCP/IP)

- Operating Systems

- Command-line Scripting

- Virtualization

- Reconnaissance: OSINT, Research

- Scanning: NMAP, Wireshark

- Gaining /Maintaining Access: Burpsuite, vulnerability exploitation, malware development, phishing / social engineering, SQL Injection, Metasploit

Cybersecurity Fundamentals

- CIA Triad

- AAA

- Least Privilege

Soft Skills

- Report Writing

- Collaboration

- Creativity

- Ability to follow agreed-upon standards

- High attention to detail

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Skills

SOC Analyst

General Technical Skills

- Networking: IDS/IPS (Intrusion Detection System / Intrusion Prevention System), models (OSI, TCP/IP), equipment types, logging

- Operating Systems

- Log Analysis

- Packet Analysis

- SIEM Tool Usage (Security Information and Event Management)

- Anti-virus / EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response)

Cybersecurity Fundamentals

- CIA Triad

- AAA

- Least Privilege

Soft Skills

- Collaboration

- Communication

- Calm under pressure

- High attention to detail

- Ability to follow established procedures

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Identify Your Ideal Organization

- The 5 industries most in need of cybersecurity professionals

- Tips for selecting the industry/org that best fits you

The Top 5 Industries in Need

- **Healthcare**

  Supply chain issues: attackers go after the records of individuals to find their vulnerabilities. Hospitals desperately need security people.

- **Government**

  Local governments, state governments, schools & districts. High need due to urban areas retaining most cybersecurity professionals. Good pension & stability.

- **Tech**

  Remote flexibility, great pay.

- **Finance**

  Protecting consumers from getting their accounts hacked. Great place to get started if you want to get involved in developing new policies.

- **Professional services**

  Cybersecurity consulting. Great because they keep employees trained; tons of learning opportunities.

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Additional tips for selection

- **Team size**

  - If you're on a smaller team, you might be the IT/security person and you learn a ton, it could get stressful but it's great purple teaming experience

  - If on a larger team, work/life balance will be better, you can learn from others, good way to specialize within your role

- **Pay**

  - The top 5 industries pay best as they're all greatly suffering from the security skills shortage

  - Any role where you'll have to wear multiple hats (purple teaming) will pay well as those are in very high demand

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Success In Finding A Job

- Expectations for roles

- Application & interview tips

Expectations For Roles

- Ignore years of experience on every job description

- Be familiar with the tools that the organization uses (but you will be trained)

- Be able to prioritize - work on this soft skill
 CVEs and alerts require tight prioritization; priorities will be different at each company

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Application & Interview Tips

- Show that you're passionate about learning

- During behavioral questions focus on dedication

- Communication is important - know how to talk about security

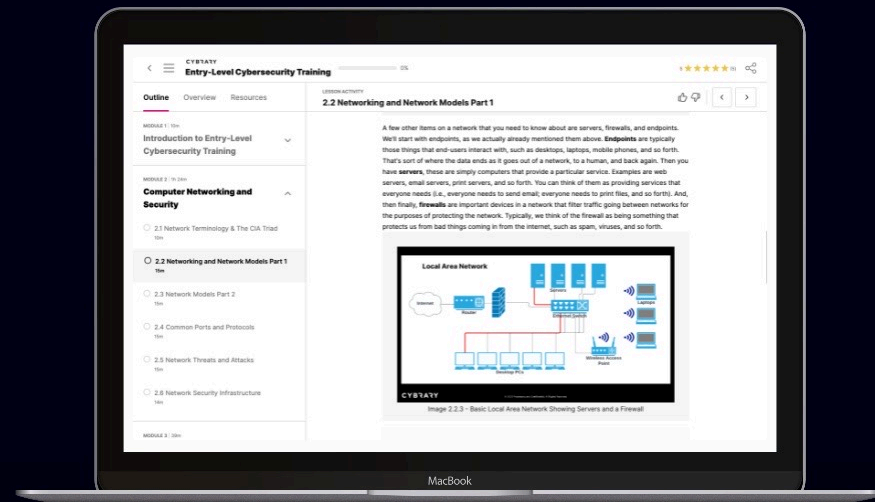- If a certification keeps coming up - register for it and add it to resume

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How do you put all this together?

You're invited to
join us at Cybrary!

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Intro Courses
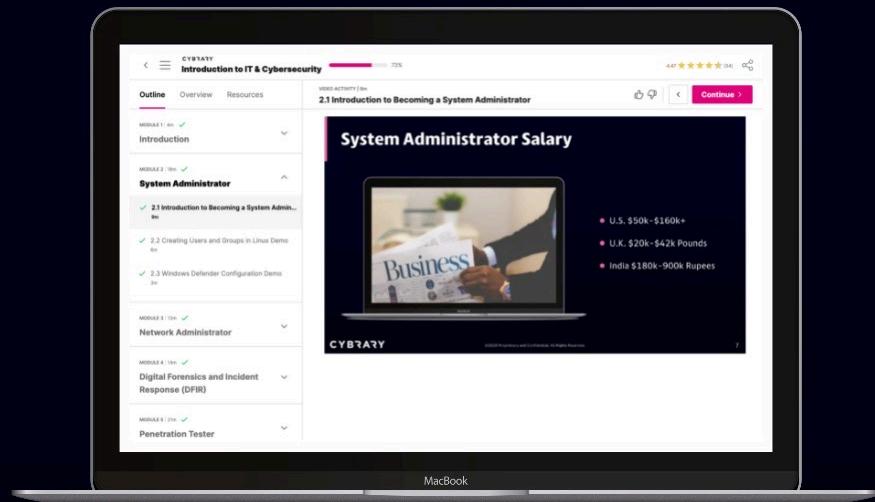
Introduction to IT & Cybersecurity

Entry-Level Cybersecurity Training

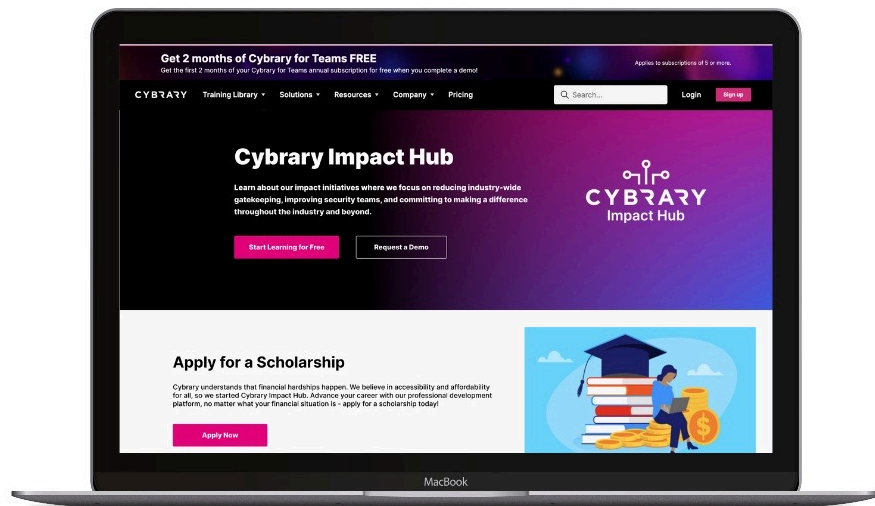CYBRARY

Career Paths
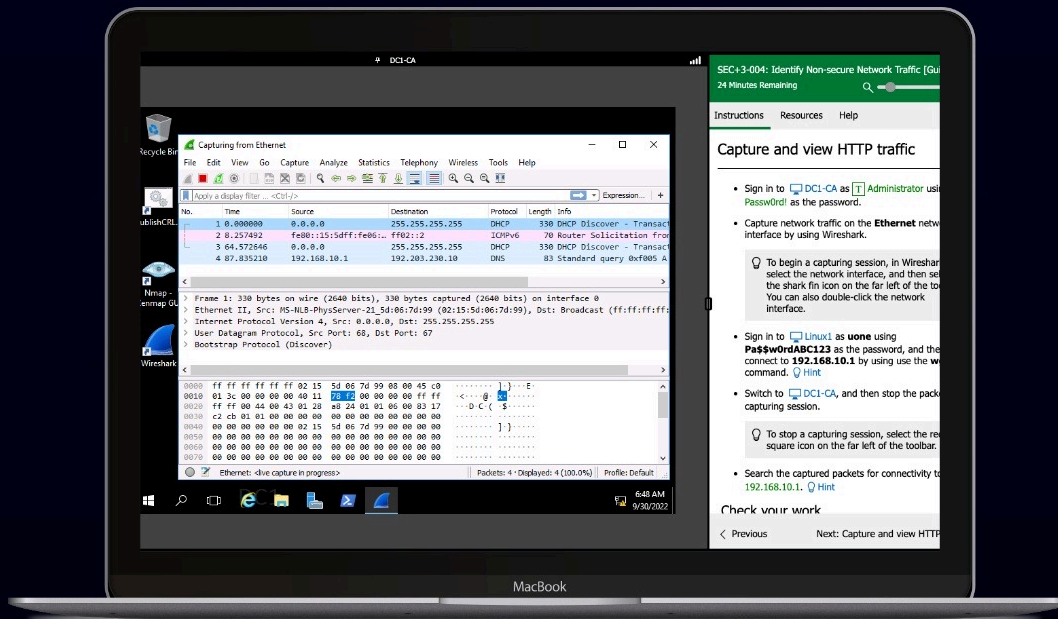

SOC I

Pentesting

SysAdmin

Network Engineer

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Community

Cybrary Discord

New Impact Hub

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Hands-On Learning Environments

Lab: Identify Non-Secure Network Traffic

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Pricing: 2 Levels

Monthly Membership

$59/mo billed monthly

Best Deal

Annual Membership

$53/mo billed annually

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Success Story: Brandon

- Was a web developer looking to break into cybersecurity

- Used Cybrary to study and take Security+ certification; passed

- Attended weekly QA sessions, was active in the community

- Obtained a job in cybersecurity by utilizing the Cybrary's Security+ cert prep course and mentorship

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Success Story: James H.

- Was transitioning from the Air Force as a SysAdmin and looking to move into cybersecurity

- Attended weekly QA sessions and mentor worked with him 1 on 1 to help transfer skills from the Air Force to what is needed as a contractor/civilian

- Worked on resume review and interview practice with mentor

- Obtained a job with the Federal Government as an incident response analyst and secured it prior to leaving the Air Force

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Q&A

Thank you for attending!

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