

# **How I Passed CompTIA Security+ Certification Exam — My First Attempt**



My learning journey regarding CompTIA Security+ Certification Exam.

## Topics that we will cover:

- ① What is CompTIA Security+ Certification and why is this certification useful?
- ② What inspired me to take the next step in cybersecurity? (ISC2 CC)
- ③ Learning journey (Dion Training, Professor Messer, Darril Gibson's book)
- ④ Practice tests & Flashcards
- ⑤ Winner's mindset
- ⑥ Exam Day (testing provider, time, questions and passing score) & topics covered
- ⑦ Certificate, valid period and digital badge
- ⑧ Conclusion

 If you want to see the full video, click on the following link:

[ShadowGirl in CyberLand — How I Passed CompTIA Security+ Certification \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

 If you want to see practice questions, click on the following link:

## **1. What is CompTIA Security+ Certification and why is this certification useful?**

The CompTIA Security+ Certification is a valuable asset for anyone looking to establish or advance their career in the field of IT security. It not only validates your skills and knowledge in the field but also opens up a wide range of job opportunities. It's a worthwhile investment for any IT professional.

This certification is globally recognized. The CompTIA Security+ Certification affirms the fundamental competencies required to execute essential security tasks and embark on a career in IT cybersecurity. It sets the benchmark for initiating a profession in security and is the favored qualifying certification for cybersecurity professionals at the onset of their career.

### **Key aspects:**

- It serves to various job roles including junior IT auditor/penetration tester, Systems Administrator, Network Administrator, and Security Administrator.
- The certification examination incorporates hands-on, performance-based questions (PBQs), drag and drop items, evaluating your capacity to effectively troubleshoot in real-world scenarios (I had 4 PBQs and single & multiple-choice questions).

- It guarantees that you are up-to-date with the latest advancements in cybersecurity technology, terminology, techniques, and tools.
- The certification is compliant with ISO 17024 standards and is endorsed by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) to fulfill directive 8140/8570.01-M requirements.

### **Benefits of this certification:**

- ***Proving Your Knowledge & Your Expertise:*** The certification confirms your mastery of the knowledge acquired during training.
- ***Achieving Industry Recognition:*** CompTIA Security+ is recognized as the benchmark for kickstarting a career in security.
- ***Making a Strong First Impression:*** Certifications can significantly enhance your profile. HR managers utilize IT certifications for screening/hiring criteria during recruitment. You can create an impact during your interview if you bring to the table the CompTIA Security+ concepts.
- ***Navigating Your Career Path:*** If you're uncertain about the potential career paths an IT certification can lead to, explore IT careers for professionals, navigate through various certifications, and uncover jobs in areas that pique your interest. This could open doors to opportunities and success because certifications are crucial in identifying the right candidate for the right job.

- ***Securing Future Success with CompTIA Security+ Certification:*** Earning a certification is a strategic move to future-proof your career.



## **2. What inspired me to take the next step in cybersecurity? (ISC2 CC)**

Last year, I passed the ISC2 CC exam (Certified in Cybersecurity). This serves as an initial certification aimed at verifying the fundamental competencies, skills, and knowledge required for a beginner or junior role in the cybersecurity field. It presents an excellent launchpad for individuals aspiring to embark on a career in cybersecurity.

So, the ISC2 CC can be a good optional prerequisite if you're looking to join a dynamic and rewarding workforce in cybersecurity, especially if you're just starting out in the field.

If you want to read more about how I started my journey in cybersecurity, check this article [ShadowGirl in CyberLand — Episode 1 — What does ISC2 CC mean.pdf](#).



### **3. Learning journey (Dion Training, Professor Messer, Darril Gibson's book)**

In my journey towards achieving the CompTIA Security+ Certification, I utilized a variety of comprehensive study resources. These included:

- **Dion Training on Udemy**, which provided me with an in-depth understanding of the subject matter through its well-structured course.
- **Professor Messer's YouTube videos**, which served as a valuable visual learning tool that supplemented my study routine.
- **The book by Darril Gibson**, which offered detailed insights and was very useful in reinforcing my knowledge base.

These resources collectively played a pivotal role in my preparation for the certification, each contributing uniquely to my learning process.



#### **4. Practice tests & Flashcards**

For my CompTIA Security+ Certification preparation, I tested my knowledge at the end of each chapter. I tried to give myself a test to check whether I understand the concepts or not. This approach is like an exam simulation and it's extremely useful to be prepared for the real exam.

Having flashcards as a learning strategy significantly enhances the comprehension of security concepts. Flashcards serve as an essential tool in the educational journey due to their ability to facilitate active recall, improve memory through spaced repetition, and promote efficient learning by breaking down complex information into manageable chunks.



## 5. Winner's mindset

Sometimes you will feel overwhelmed and discouraged to study further. I also felt like I would not pass this exam because there are a lot of concepts to memorize and understand in CompTIA Security+. I had many doubts. The fear of not passing the exam was a constant companion, and uncertainty cast a long shadow over my confidence.

However, I motivated myself that I could do it because others had traversed this path and emerged victorious. So, it's not something impossible, but it requires a lot of time and dedication to study. Crafting a pragmatic study plan can illuminate your educational journey.

Adopting a “winner's mindset” is crucial. Remember, your thoughts have the power to shape your reality (the law of attraction). But don't overlook the significance of hard work; it's not enough to merely wish for certification.





Ensure you take regular breaks to rejuvenate, get adequate sleep, stay hydrated, and maintain a balanced diet. Strive for a harmonious blend of a structured study plan and flexibility. If writing aids your understanding, make it a habit to take notes, but be prepared for this to extend your study time.

Failing a quiz or a practice exam is not the end of the world. Just keep learning from your mistakes. In life you will have ups and downs, because life is a roller coaster. When you fall, it's important how you get back up to achieve your goal. So, the true measure of success is not in never falling, but in rising each time you fall.

Consider creating a calendar-based study plan, setting daily objectives. This approach can provide structure and clear milestones on your journey to success.

## **6. Exam day (testing provider, time, questions and passing score) & topics covered**

The CompTIA Security+ examination encompasses a **maximum of 90 questions**. You will have **90 minutes to complete the exam**. Upon finalizing the examination, you will be presented with an opportunity to voluntarily

provide information via an **exit survey**, detailing your study methodologies and the motivations behind your decision to pursue certification. The **passing score is 750 (on a scale of 100–900)**. The **testing provider is Pearson VUE** (testing centers or online testing).

**Topics covered in the exam:**

- ***Threats, attacks and vulnerabilities:*** This domain focuses on understanding different types of threats and vulnerabilities, analyzing indicators of compromise, and distinguishing between various types of attacks.
- ***Identity and Access Management:*** This involves implementing controls for identity and access management, as well as understanding common account management practices.
- ***Technologies and Tools:*** This domain covers the troubleshooting of common security issues and the secure deployment of mobile devices.
- ***Risk Management:*** This involves understanding the importance of policies, plans, and procedures related to organizational security.
- ***Architecture and Design:*** This domain focuses on understanding secure application development, deployment, and concepts related to cloud and virtualization.

- ***Cryptography and PKI (Public Key Infrastructure)***: This involves understanding the basic concepts of cryptography and the implementation of public key infrastructure.



## 7. Certificate, valid period and digital badge

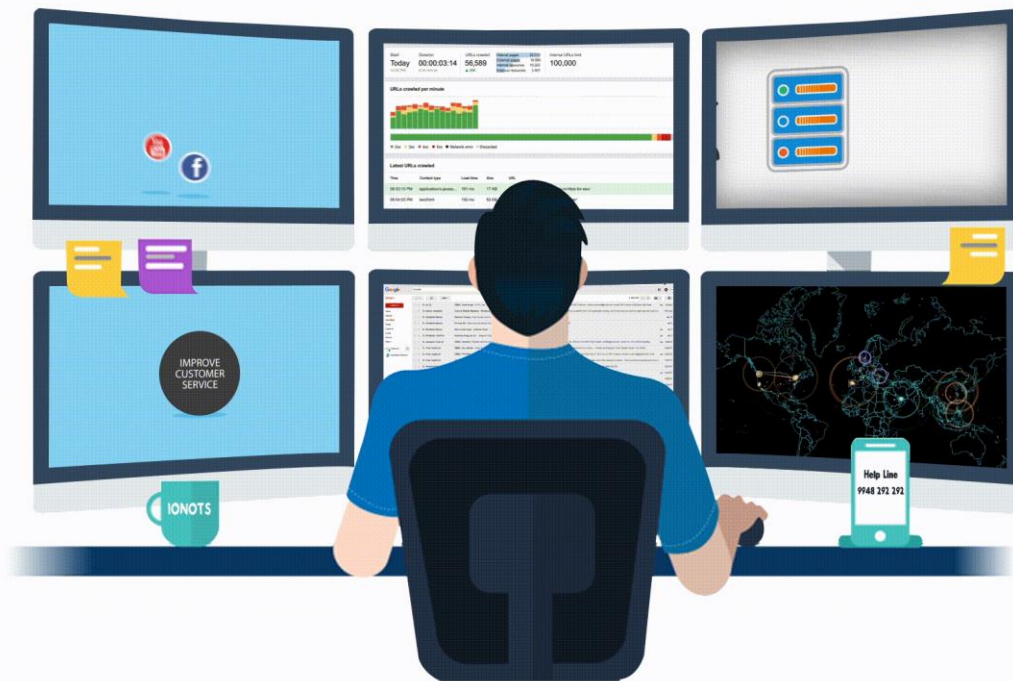
If you pass the exam, congratulations! You will get the digital certificate and badge in several hours. If you didn't pass the exam, don't get discouraged and study harder. The certification is **valid for 3 years** from the date you pass your certification.



## 8. Conclusion

Individuals who have obtained the CompTIA Security+ certification possess the essential knowledge and skills to execute fundamental security operations associated with any role in cybersecurity. These certified professionals are adept at recognizing and tackling potential threats, attacks, and vulnerabilities. They are equipped with proven strategies in managing risks, mitigating risks, managing threats, and detecting intrusions.

Good luck with your certification journey! 😊



*Thanks and Regards,*

*ShadowGirl* 🧑‍💻 😊