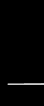# What is the CISSP and Why It Matters

What is the CISSP?

- Anyone know or have heard of it?

What is the CISSP?

- CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional) is a globally recognized cybersecurity certification focused on designing, managing, and analyzing secure systems.

What is the CISSP?

- Offered by (ISC2)
- Considered a gold standard
- Emphasizes strategy, architecture, risk and operations
- Vendor-neutral and industry-agnostic
- CISSP is about how security works at scale, not just tools

What CISSP is NOT

- To set expectations:
  - Not a penetration testing certification
  - Not tool-specific (no nmap, metasploit, exiftool, etc.)
  - Not entry-level hands-on hacking

What CISSP Is

- Instead, CISSP focuses on
    - Security decision-making
    - Enterprise systems and architecture
    - Risk, governance, and policy
    - Incident response and operations

The CISSP Domains (High Level)

- Security & Risk Management
- Assets Security
- Security Architecture & Engineering
- Network & Communications Security

The CISSP Domains (High Level)

- Identity & Access Management (IAM)
- Security Assessment & Testing
- Security Operations
- Software Development Security

Why CISSP Is Used in This Course

- Provides a structured, comprehensive security framework
- Emphasizes systems thinking, not isolated tools
- Connects technical controls with business risk
- Reflects real-world enterprise security practices
- Is widely recognized by employers and regulators

CISSP & Systems Analysis

- Analyze how systems fail, not just how they're attacked
- Understand reminder: security is a process, not a product
- Evaluate tradeoffs between cost, risk, and controls
- Design defense-in-depth architectures
- Connect people, process, and technology

Why Employers Value CISSP

- Broad security knowledge across domains
- Ability to think beyond individual vulnerabilities
- Understanding of compliance, risk, and governance
- Capability to communicate with executives and stakeholders
- Readiness for senior and leadership roles

Common Jobs Roles

- Security Analyst
- Security Engineer
- SOC Manager
- Security Architect
- GRC Analyst
- vCISO / Security Manager

Do You Need CISSP to Pass?

- No
- You are not expected to take the CISSP exam
- The CISSP study guide is used as an industry reference
- Focus is on understanding concepts, not memorization

Takeaway

- CISSP provides a big-picture view of cybersecurity

- Teach system level security thinking

- Prepare for real-world environments

- Build skills relevant to technical and non-technical roles

- Weather or not you pursue CISSP, the concepts are industry essential