Activity: Explore cybersecurity Organization

**Activity Overview**

In this activity, you will identify the areas of cybersecurity that interest you most. Then, you will explore various cybersecurity organizations related to those interests and determine which ones most appropriately fit your interest and skill set.

As you learned earlier, engaging with the security community through various security organizations and conferences is a great way to stay up-to-date on current security news. By staying informed about security trends, you can more effectively identify and develop remediation strategies to address a wide range of security challenges. Taking this approach can help you advance your career by familiarizing yourself with what’s going on in the security world.

Be sure to complete this activity before moving on. The next course item will provide you with a completed exemplar to compare to your own work.

**Scenario**

Review the following background information. Then complete the step-by-step instructions.

It’s a useful practice to find a security organization to join during the job searching process. Doing so will help you engage with the security community while you’re seeking employment.

The first step in choosing a security organization you might like to join is to reflect on what areas in cybersecurity interest you most. After you’ve identified a few topics, the next step is to search for organizations related to those topics online. Once you’ve done research into a few different organizations that are relevant to your interests, it’s important to write what stood out to you and why. This will give you an opportunity to review your notes at a later time to help you determine which organizations most closely align well with the areas in cybersecurity that interests you the most

# Security organization worksheet

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| **Part 1: Describe your security interests** |
| * Penetration testing and Ethical hacking * Incident response * Web security |
| **Part 2: Identify three organizations and include their mission or objectives** |
| Organization 1: Organization 1: Offensive Security  *Mission/Objectives:* Offensive Security is known for providing world-class information security training and certification. They focus on hands-on, practical training in the field of penetration testing and ethical hacking.  Organization 2: Organization 2: SANS Institute  *Mission/Objectives:* The SANS Institute is a cooperative research and education organization that offers information security training and certification. They are widely recognized for their incident response and threat hunting courses.  Organization 3: Organization 3: OWASP (Open Web Application Security Project)  *Mission/Objectives:* OWASP is focused on improving the security of software. They have a strong emphasis on web security and provide resources, tools, and community support for individuals and organizations involved in web application security. |
| **Part 3: Write out which organization aligns with your interests and why** |
| Organization 1: Organization 1: Offensive Security  *Alignment:* This organization aligns well with my interest in penetration testing and ethical hacking. They offer practical training and certification in these areas, providing a hands-on approach to learning the skills required for ethical hacking.  Organization 2: Organization 2: SANS Institute  *Alignment:* SANS Institute closely aligns with my interest in incident response. Their courses are well-regarded in the industry, focusing on practical skills and real-world scenarios related to incident response and threat hunting.  Organization 3: Organization 3: OWASP  *Alignment:* OWASP is a great fit for my interest in web security. As an open community, they offer a wealth of resources, tools, and collaborative opportunities to enhance knowledge and skills in securing web applications.  Best choice for my professional interests:  Considering my interests in penetration testing, ethical hacking, incident response, and web security, the best choice for my professional interests might depend on my specific career goals and the skills I want to prioritize. However, joining Offensive Security could be particularly beneficial as they cover a broad spectrum of security topics, including penetration testing and ethical hacking, providing a solid foundation for various cybersecurity roles. |

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### **Step 2: Write down your cybersecurity topics of interest**

In **Part 1** of the security organization worksheet, list your areas of interest in the cybersecurity profession. For example, these are some areas you might consider:

* Raising security awareness
* Protecting sensitive data
* Cloud security

You can include **at least three topics**, but you may include more if you like.  Typically two or three topics is ideal. That way, you can keep focused on a specific aspect of the security field.

Note: Think back to the different security topics throughout this certificate program such as cloud security, incident response, forensic security, etc. You can also review a summary of topics discussed in each course on the [Google Cybersecurity Professional Certificate main page](https://www.coursera.org/professional-certificates/google-cybersecurity#courses).

### **Step 3: Identify three security organizations and highlight their objectives**

Spend some time researching security organizations online. Use keywords of the interests you previously listed to help with your search. For example, "data encryption organizations," or "vulnerability management." Pay close attention to the objectives and goals of the organizations you research and try to identify ones that align with the interests you identified in Part 1 of the worksheet

Choose three organizations that align most closely with your interests. Then, add their **names** and **brief descriptions (20-40 words)** of their objectives to **Part 2** of the worksheet.

Note: Consider the “about us” page on the organization’s website. That typically will have mission statements and areas of focus for the  organization.

### **Step 4: Explain which organization fits your interest the most and why**

In **Part 3** of the security organization worksheet, write **1-2 sentences (20-40 words)** explaining how each organization does (or does not) relate to your interests. Then, clearly identify one organization that most closely aligns with your interest and goals in cybersecurity.

Note: Keep in mind that it's just as important to determine which organization does not fit your needs as much as it is to determine the organization that does fit your needs. Even though an organization may match your professional interests, it does not necessarily mean that organization is a good match for what you’re looking for.

Be sure to include the following elements in your completed activity:

* At least three cybersecurity topics of interest.
* The names of three security organizations and their objectives.
* One organization that fits your interest the most. Be sure to explain why.

# Security organization worksheet

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| **Part 1: Describe your security interests** |
| * Cloud computing security * Incident response * Protection of sensitive data * Raising security awareness |
| **Part 2: Identify three organizations and include their mission or objectives** |
| * **Organization 1: CSA - Cloud Security Alliance**   + Dedicated to defining and raising awareness of best practices to help ensure a secure cloud computing environment * **Organization 2: CISO Executive Network**   + A peer-to-peer organization dedicated to helping information security, IT risk management, privacy, and compliance executives be more successful * **Organization 3: NCSA - National Cyber Security Alliance**    + Advocate for the safe use of all technology and educate everyone on how best to protect ourselves, our families, and our organizations from cybercrime. |
| **Part 3: Write out which organization aligns with your interests and why** |
| **Organization 1:** The CSA organization aligns best with my interest in cloud security because it specifically focuses on securing cloud computing environments.  **Organization 2:** The CISO Executive network is catered toward security executives, and I am not on the executive level as of yet. So, that organization would not align with my current role or experience in the security industry.  **Organization 3:** The NCSA organization seems like a good organization for general awareness and understanding but it is not specifically focused on my professional security interest in cloud security.  **Best choice for my professional interests:** I will research how to join the CSA to help me stay engaged with the security community. |