Game Plan To Beat The CISSP

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Craig Myers , CISSP, ITIL | Follow
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Are you considering taking the CISSP exam? Well here is a a great self study game plan to battle the beast. My self study game plan is setup so that you can cram it in a month or stretch it to a year. I personal recommend 90 days but either way you will have a good chance at passing. This exam can push you into a new bracket in your career so take it serious .So let's begin

When I self study for any exam I like to work with three focal points .

1. Audio and visual aids

2. Literature

3. Practice Exams

Audio / Visuals

Day 1-15 or until you know it like your favorite songs

I began my first two weeks of studying by Listening to the Donald Parker's Cybersec Podcast anytime I got into my car. This podcast helped with the Basics by going through I think hundreds of Security Definitions and examples of what the term did. This was a great a start and this pumped me up and gave me confidence. (Free)

Donald Parker

https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/...969825909?mt=2

Then from week 3 till the week of my test I played Kelly Handerhans Cybrary.IT course

in my car This was the older version but it was still a great tool as she broke down the test and went deeper in explaining everything and how it relates to the real world. (Free)

Kelly Handerhan / Cybrary

https://www.cybrary.it/course/cissp/

I personally didn't use this as much but here is another set of classes that people have used. (free)

Larry Greenblatt

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ept-...4UzL3d8qIpUaHC

Literature

After you have completed your audio visuals: Day 15-45 and skim through last week

Now when it comes to literature I will be honest with you, some books can be lengthy and put you to sleep. God bless her soul but Mrs Harris books were extremely long and i would never make it through them. But Eric Conrad in my opinion did a excellent Job with his series of books. I recommend getting the full size book as your main source. This Book is around 600 pages and I can personally attest that everything I saw on my exam I read in the book. This book took Me a week to read and I read it the week before my exam and I read the SDLC portion a hour before i walked into the exam. My recommendation would be to read this book at least twice

https://www.amazon.com/CISSP-Study-G...ds=eric+conrad.

Another book that is highly regarded would be the Sybex 7th edition I picked this book up as an alternative source , I planned to read them both but i just never made it through it. This book is still a good source i just enjoyed the conrad book more.

https://www.amazon.com/Certified-Inf...4NDGYFK6AQW5JZ

Practice Test

After you have completed your audio Visuals and read your book once: Day 45-80

I believe Practice test are extremely Important. But i'm not talking about brain dumps I mean test purchased for only studying purposes. With the CISSP you need to know more than just terms but you need to know why something Is the **BEST** answer. On your exam you will find out that unlike most exams where 1 answers is right 1 answer is maybe right and the other two are definitely wrong. Well on the CISSP exam it's not uncommon to see 2 or 3 questions that could be the Answer. That's why I feel it's extremely important to take practice test. Here are the top two contender I have used them both but I feel Transcenders is the better out of the two.

https://www.transcender.com/certprep/isc2/cissp.kap

https://www.cccure.org/

Pro TIPS

- The week of the test make sure you get some rest. (a good night's sleep)

- Don't eat or drink a lot.You using the restroom will take time away from your test

- Take a lite snack to the test center. I took peanuts red bull and water.

- Pace yourself 60 seconds per question is a good pace it allows a 5-10 ten minute break per hour and a whole hour to review at the end.

- I recommend to book the exam Day 1 of studying if you don't you will procrastinate

Feel Free to contact me

Craig Myers, CISSP, ITIL

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Blog: https://craigmyersblog.wordpress.com/

Twitter:@craigthementor

Youtube:clmyersconsulting@gmail.com

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Benedette Ntinglet, MA, MS, CEHv9, Security Plus   ⋯   2w
Technical Compliance Analyst and ISSO
Hello Craig,
Thank you for this information for it means so much to me.
Like   Reply   │   👍 3   💬 1

  Matthew Kern CEA³ CISSP-ISSAP PMP...   ⋯   2w
  Enterprise Architect & Systems Engineer: Widely Recognized, Highly Recommended & Endorsed.
  The CISSP is the "gold standard"
  Like   Reply   │   👍 1

Donald Parker   ⋯   2w
CISSP, CCSK, ITIL, MCSE
Thanks for the plug Craig! I put a lot of work into the audio so I'm really happy to hear that you found them helpful!

Donald Parker
Like   Reply   │   👍 3   💬 1

  Craig Myers , CISSP, ITIL   ⋯   2w
  Information Security | Cyber | Technology | Leader
  No problem your class created a great foundation for me to pass
  Like   Reply

Kevin Burch · · · 1w
Help desk analyst, Techincal support, Desktop support

Thanks !

Like   Reply | 👍 2   💬 1

Craig Myers , CISSP, ITIL · · · 1w
Information Security | Cyber | Technology | Leader

No problem just let me know if you need any help with anything

Like   Reply | 👍 1

John P. Sioui, CISSP · · · 1w
Associate IT Architect SME CISSP Security expert Seeking new opportunities

It is a good article and different people will follow different paths to obtain their CISSP. Being 'hands on' with the technology and always considering security and risk is a definite asset. Having the will and determination to be a true Security Professional is where you will succeed. Having a piece of paper means nothing unless you truly believe in what it took to obtai… **See more**

Like   Reply | 👍 2   💬 2

Pete MacKay, CSSLP, GICSP · · · 1w
Embedded and Security Architecture

Shon's book is all I've been using so far, and I've heard many criticisms as well but I've rather enjoyed it. Craig, thanks so much for this resource. I thought I could stay focused and schedule it shortly after my CSSLP but life has gotten so busy - I will incorporate your advice into a more regimented plan. Luc Levensohn, thank you for your invaluable tips as well!

Like   Reply

John P. Sioui, CISSP · · · 1w
Associate IT Architect SME CISSP Security expert Seeking new opportunities

By the way
I used ONLY Shon Harris All In One study guide although many say it is overkill. I consider it the CISSP bible. RIP Shon.

Like   Reply | 👍 1

Luc Levensohn · · · 1w
Chief Information Security Officer at Pro Teck Valuation Services

I just passed CISSP recently and took some different paths so thanks for starting the thread that I'll add on to. I started by self studying and passing CompTIA Sec+ since I had not taken a cert exam for years. Sec+ also overlaps nicely with the CISSP technical sections. I'm (also) very audio oriented so I listened to Shon Harris (free) https://www.mhprofessional.com/sit… **See more**

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Craig Myers , CISSP, ITIL · · · 1w
Information Security | Cyber | Technology | Leader

Congrats on passing your exam and adding your knowledge

Like   Reply

Good Morning family. I need to take the CISSP as well but i have to write Certified Authorization Professional(CAP) since I just pass my CEH v9 last week. I need help!! in order to obtain a better job. Thank you

Like   Reply | 👍 1   💬 1

Craig Myers , CISSP, ITIL
Information Security | Cyber | Technology | Leader

··· 2w

I know CISSP will definitely help you obtain a better job especially considering your in the DC metro area.

Like   Reply | 👍 1

Ben DeLong
Information Security Engineer

··· 2w

Excellent breakdown, Craig. I know what I'll be doing to pass the time during my commute.

Like   Reply | 👍 1   💬 1

Craig Myers , CISSP, ITIL
Information Security | Cyber | Technology | Leader

··· 2w

Thank you

Like   Reply

Jayakrishnan C P
Information Security Manager at Metmox Inc

··· 2w

Thank you ..

Like   Reply | 👍 1

Ahmad Makhzoum (CCE, VCP)
Information Security Officer at Risk Group

··· 1w

Thank you for the great advice, i am going after the CISSP soon

Like   Reply | 👍 1

Gary Wood
IT Manager at Ososim

··· 1w

Good advice and interesting links, thanks Craig.

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Michael Buffone
ISSO and Oracle DBA

··· 1w

Thanks for sharing this information. I can tell you are an unselfish person. So many of us have failed the test and need a different angle to pass it. This just might do it.

Like   Reply | 👍 1

Michelle Tuggle, CISM, FITSP-
Lead Information Assurance Analyst / Engineer at The Aerospace Corporation

··· 1w

Hi Craig,
Thank you for sharing your experience and insight. You and Mr. Parker have provided a great service to us all!

Like   Reply | 👍 1

exam in the next 3 months, so let me try out and see how it works out for me. I will post an update.

Like   Reply | 👍 1

Tarek Othman, MBA

··· 1w

Sr. Network and Security administrator at Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank (ADIB)

Hello craig,

I'm really pleased to read this tips for CISSP exam. But i wanted to ask if these sources are still valid for the new exam or not?

Like   Reply   👍 1

Muhammad Abdul   ···   1w
Security+ Certified, actively seeking

Thanks for all the tips, i look forward to studying and get my cert

Like   Reply   │   👍 1

Ishan Girdhar   ···   1w
6+ Years Experience in Information Security - OSCP certified

Thanks Craig for sharing your game plan. You have no idea how many souls you have helped.

Like   Reply   │   👍 1

Jamie P.   ···   1w
Privacy & Security Specialist ▶ Providing Innovative Solutions To Meaningful Missions

Outstanding! Thank you for the tips and great insight

Like   Reply   │   👍 1

Michael McDaniel   ···   6d
Sr. System Administrator at Leidos

Donald Parker it looks like you are putting it down. I may call on you in the near future.

Like   Reply   │   👍 1

Ramy Ragi, CCNP R/S, CCDP, CCSE   ···   1w
Security Technical Management Engineer at Orange Business Services

Very informative

Thanks Craig :)

Like   Reply

Praveen Nair   ···   1d
Data Privacy Lead

Excellent summary

Like   Reply

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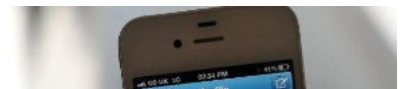
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