Discussion-8 SSCP certification

<u>Discussion Topic:</u>

The content for this course is designed to prepare you for SSCP certification. Now that we are in the last week of the course, review the ISC2 (SSCP certification authority). to find out more information about the Systems Security Certified Practitioner exam. Are you planning to obtain this certification? Why or why not?

<u>My Post:</u>

Hello Class,

This course has been extremely interesting to me; I genuinely enjoy learning about how to secure and defend information systems, and the knowledge that I acquired in the course is valuable for my future studies and future career in AI.

As for the ISC² SSCP certification, I can see why having this certification would be a huge asset as it is proof of "advanced technical skills and knowledge to implement, monitor and administer IT infrastructure using security best practices" (ISC^2, n.d.), which is an excellent certification to possess for anyone pursuing a security career such as a Security Administrator, Systems Engineer, or Network Security Analyst. The following image is from CISA (U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency) website, illustrating the immense need for cybersecurity-certified workers in the U.S.

Figure 1
Join the Cybersecurity Workforce

Note: This image illustrates the U.S. cybersecurity job market in 2025. From the "National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies (NICCS)" (NICCS, n.d.a).

However, personally, after considering my career goals and exam costs, I have decided not to take the certification exam at this time. I am graduating in less than a week with a BS in Computer Science and

will be starting an MS in AI and Machine Learning at CSU Global this coming September. My chosen career path is in AI engineering, although security principles are equally important in the fields of IT and Computer Science, the SSCP certification is not usually a requirement for AI engineers. Additionally, it is a cost factor and other personal factors in my decision not to pursue the certification. Nonetheless, if I decide to take it in the future, I wouldn't choose the basic exam payment option for $249, as I have major exam anxiety and have failed exams in the past due to illness or stress. I will pick the $328 "Peace of Mind" option as it allows me to retake the exam within 180 days, if needed.

On a side note, for my chosen career path and anyone pursuing a security career, it may be worth considering pursuing the Certified AI Security Fundamentals (CAISF) from Tonex (n.d.), which is an entry point for further certification. This CAISF course is recommended by NICCS as "it equips participants with essential knowledge and skills to safeguard AI systems and data against evolving cyber threats" (NICCS, n.d.b). Tonex also provides an extensive list of AI certifications, such as Certified AI Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance (ISR) Analyst (CAIISR), Certified AI Malware Analyst (CAIMA), and Certified AI Incident Response Analyst (CAIIRA), that may be worth considering. You can find the list of Tonex's AI Certifications and courses here: Tonex AI Certifications and Courses.

-Alex

References:

ISC[2]. (n.d.). *SSCP Systems Security Certified Practitioner Certification*. ISC[2]. https://www.isc2.org/Certifications/SSCP

NICCS (n.d.a). *National Initiative for Cybersecurity Careers and Studies (NICCS)*. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. https://niccs.cisa.gov/

NICCS (n.d.b). *Certified AI Security Fundamentals (CAISF)*. U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. https://niccs.cisa.gov/training/catalog/tonex/certified-ai-security-fundamentals-caisf

Tonex (n.d.). *AI Certificates*. Tonex. https://www.tonex.com/certification/ai-certificates/