The Value of Cybersecurity Certifications

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Who am I

CISSP since 2006, CISM from 2014, one of the authors of the ISACA CSXP certification.

Hiring manager in IT Security for many years, former cert junkie.

CompTIA Security+ Certified Professional, IBM Security Champion, IBM Certified Deployment Professional - Security QRadar SIEM, Security Access Manager for Web, Identity Manager, IBM Certified Advanced Deployment Professional, IBM Certified Solution Advisor - Security and Compliance Management Solutions, IBM Certified Advanced Deployment Professional - Security Management Solutions, IBM Certified Specialist - Identity Manager, IBM Certified System Administrator WebSphere Application Server, IBM InfoSphere Guardium Technical Professional, IBM DB2 UDB Database Administrator for Linux, Unix and Windows, HP OpenView Certification Program Accredited Integration Specialist (Network Services), HP Accredited Sales Consultant, Cisco Unified Communications for System Engineer, Oracle Certified Partner, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer: Messaging, Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer: Security, Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator Messaging, Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator: Security, Microsoft Certified Professional

Agenda

Disclaimer

- This is my personal take from the practical standpoint.
- IT Security certs only, no IIA or IAPP CIPP
- All great views and opinions in this presentation are my own, everything else is not my own.

The talk

- What are the IT security certs?
- Which one do I get?
- What does it take to get one?

Security industry certifications

Non-profit

CISSP, CISSP-with-a-twist, other stuff no one knows with C, S and P in the name (CSSLP, CCSP, SSCP, CCFP)

CISA, CISM, CRISC, CGEIT

For-profit

An alphabet soup of over 20 different certs with four letters in the name

Go for the one with 3 letters (GSE), but brace for the ride.

Practical certifications

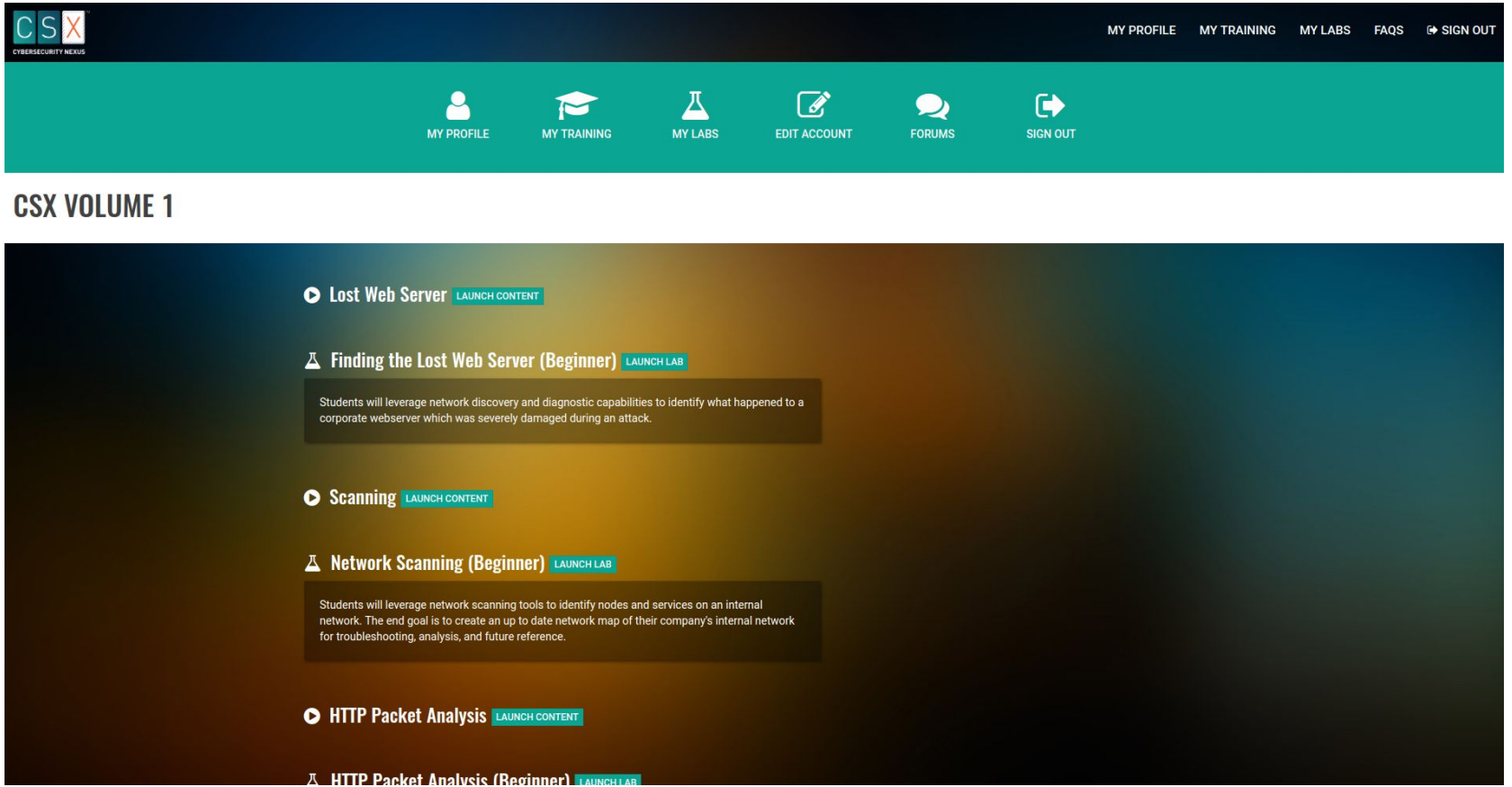
OSCP - Offensive Security Certified Professional

CSXF - CyberSecurity Fundamentals

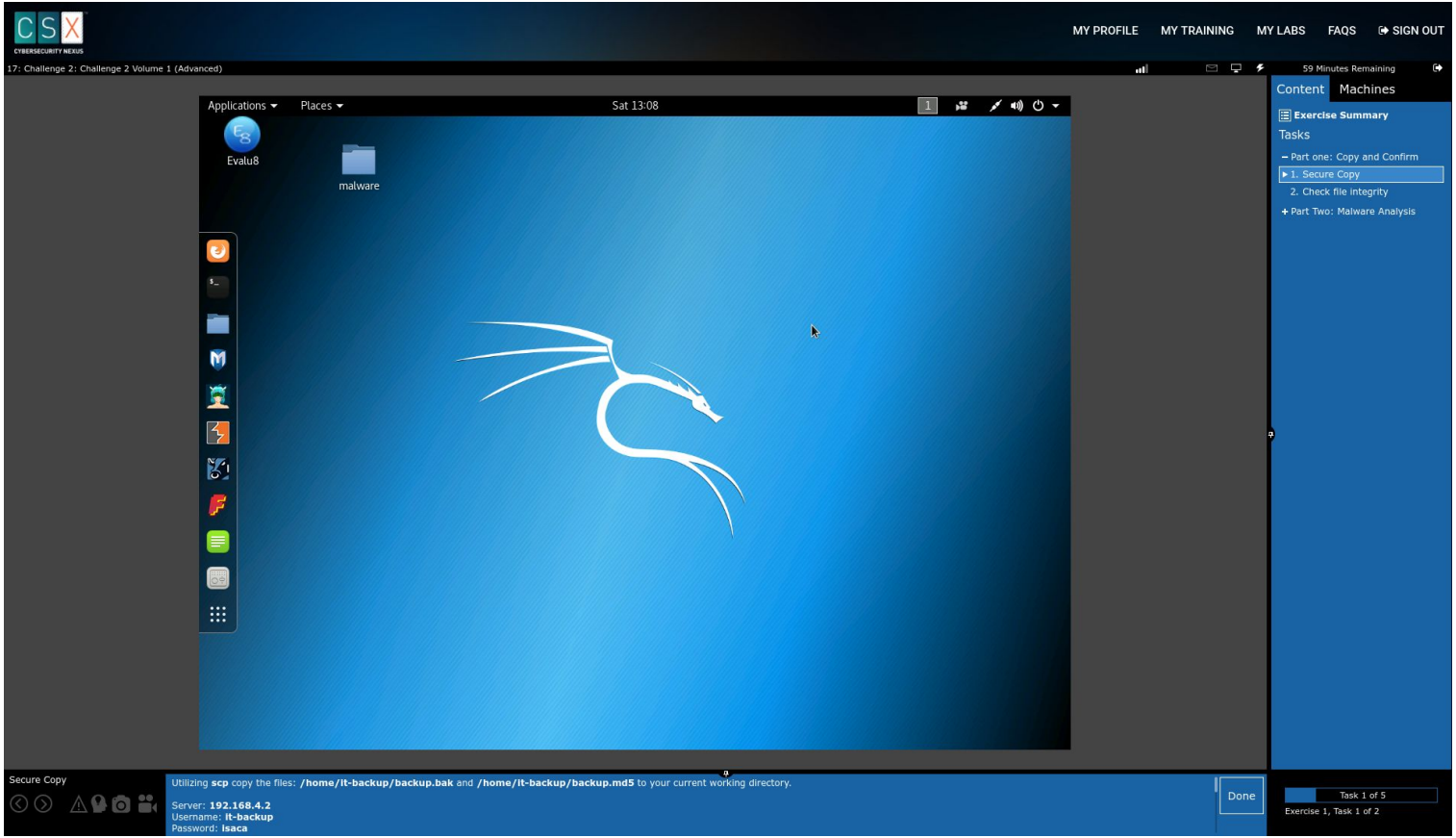
CSXP - CyberSecurity Practitioner

GSE - GIAC Security Expert

ISACA CSX Cybersecurity Nexus



ISACA CSX Practitioner



Vendor certifications

Many big security vendors have them

- Cloud Security - AWS Certified Security
- Network Security - CCIE Security
- Host Security - MCSE Security, RHCS Security
- DB - Oracle DB Security Certified
- IBM, DELL/EMC/RSA - IBM Security Solution Advisor, RSA Security

Junk certifications

Nobody really cares about, except the companies pushing them*

- EC-Council - C|EH, CCISO and a ton
- Mile2 - C)PEH and other C)* stuff
- CompTIA - Security+

** Some may be included as prerequisites for vendor certifications*

Why certify

Career

- Up - most sr. level security positions now list CISSP for general and/or CISM/CISA/CRISC for more specific (director/auditor/analyst) roles
- Lateral movements - CISA, GIAC certs

Deep technical knowledge in IT Security

- OSCP, GSE (which requires 4-5 from the SANS portfolio), CSXP

Employer

- Vendor certs for channel status for resellers
- CISSP, CRISC, CGEIT for PS firms

Pay out. Sort of.

Global Knowledge List

- CGEIT & AWS Certified Solution Architect - 1st&2nd - $121k
- PMP & AWS Certified Developer - 3rd & 4th - $114k
- CISSP & CRISK - 5&6th - $111k
- CISM - 7th - $108k
- MCSE & CISA - 12&13th $100k

https://www.globalknowledge.com/us-en/content/articles/top-paying-certifications/

What do they cost

Money. Ask your employer to pay for it.

- CISSP - $600-700 + $85/yr + 40cpe/yr
- ISACA - $500-600 + $205/yr + 40cpe/yr
- OSCP - $800-$1150
- GIAC GSE - arm+leg

Time (you pay)

- CISSP - 2-6 months
- CISA, CISM - 2-6 months, CRISC, CGEIT - more
- OSCP - 6+ months
- GIAC GSE - years

CISSP and ISACA certs require 5 years of relevant infosec experience

How to train

Industry certs

- Books and official training materials
- Online trainings, Linkedin learning, Youtube etc
- SANS and ISACA CISSP Instructor led trainings.
    - Derek Hill <derek@dh-solutions.com> is teaching one soon with SANS

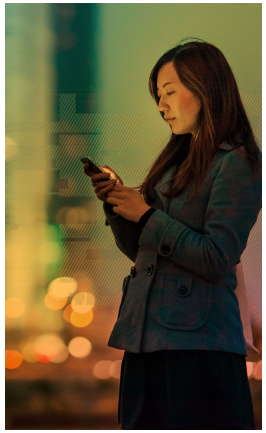
Practical exams

- Get the lab subscription for longer than you think you'll need it

Vendor certs

- Get braindumps

Conclusions



Serious about being in the industry - **CISSP**

Want to be an 31337 h4x0r - **OSCP**

Certification junkie - go **SANS**!

Thank you

Questions?

https://securedmind.com