How to Start & Build a CyberSecurity Career

Reality of Job Markets:

- Many factors contribute to hiring decisions, and they're not all about you. Often, they relate to internal company matters. DON'T TAKE IT PERSONALLY
- Job searching can be a numbers game, you can't control when an opportunity comes knocking.
- Lack of feedback doesn't necessarily reflect your worth or whether you are qualified.
- You are not solely defined by your job or job search. Don't use that as a metric of success.
- If possible, request feedback from interviews. This can help you identify areas for improvement, making the rejection a growth opportunity.

Cultivating and Maintaining a Positive Mindset:

- Engage in activities that uplift your spirit and remind you of your value, such as hobbies, spending time with loved ones, or practicing mindfulness.
- Instead of viewing rejection as failure, view it as redirection. It might mean there's a better-suited opportunity waiting for you elsewhere.
- Consider using career coaches or counselors. They can provide valuable insights and strategies to improve your search.
- No news doesn't mean bad news. Stick with the facts, and not the fear inside your head.
- DO NOT fall in love with a specific work role, even if you have had an interview. Stay balanced and continue applying till you OBTAIN and ACCEPT a written OFFER!

How to be in Action:

- Identify and Target SPECIFIC WORK ROLES based on where you want to go eventually.
- Instead of ruminating over rejections, focus on self-improvement and skill acquisition.
    - Badges
    - Certifications
    - SKILLS (Listed on your resume and for display on GitHub)
    - Degrees
- Engage in networking events or groups. Not only can this open up job opportunities, but sharing experiences can provide comfort and a reminder that you're not alone.
- Build a PLAN, understand the math behind your search, and what it takes to be successful. That quantitative analysis will inform your strategy.   Number of Apps*Time Targeted=Velocity
- If you conduct an interview, or even a second or third, the search IS NOT OVER, one must continue applying, until you are provided with a verbal or written offer and you choose to accept. THEN and only THEN do you stop applying and interviewing.
- Do show up to interviews dressed appropriately. Cultures from company to company vary, so don't be afraid to ask the recruiter as part of the process what they would recommend.
- When interviewing through a videoconference (Zoom, Teams, Google Meet) make sure it is quiet where you are without distractions, dress the part as if you would be in person and make sure your video background is appropriate for an office. Cleanliness and Professional are critical.
- Test your setup with a friend before, make sure everything is in working order.