Cybersecurity Interview Prep Guide

Interview performance is directly related to interview preparation. Use this guide to research the opportunity and to prepare for specific interview questions and scenarios.

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What is the company's mission?	
What are the company's core values? Did any stand out to you?	
What do you know about their industry? Customers? Competitors?	
What are the company's main products/services? How do they generate revenue?	
Google the company and filter by "news". Are there any articles that stand out? Recent events? Big wins? What has the company been posting on YouTube or social media? Have they released any interesting research, intel, white papers, or webinars?	

Who's on the executive team? (CEO, CISO, CFO, COO, etc.). Board of Directors? Get a feel for who's leading the company through the website, LinkedIn, or Google.	
Who's the hiring manager? Can you see who they report to? Research their LinkedIn profile to understand their background and current role.	
Use LinkedIn to find 2-3 people that hold the job you applied to. Can you gain any insights about their work experience, skills, and current responsibilities? Can you find any common ground with them?	
Review the job description. In your own words write down the main purpose of this role. How does this role add value to the company?	
Review the job description. Write down every key word. Think about your experience/understanding of each (e.g., SIEM, IPS/IDS, NIST, etc.).	
Review the job description. Write down every technology and your experience/understanding of each (e.g., Python, Splunk, Wireshark, Metasploit, etc.)	

Review the job description. Write down the required skills and your experience/understanding of each (e.g., OS knowledge, scripting, problem solving, event analysis, etc.)	
"Tell us about yourself" - prepare a 2 minute statement that describes the following. Rehearse your answer (don't become a robot with a perfectly scripted answer, this is just a framework that keeps you on track and starts the interview off on the right foot). • Your professional/educational experience and skills • Why you're on the market • How you find this opportunity and why you applied • How you are specifically qualified for this opportunity	
Be prepared to discuss what you know about the company. Use the research you did at the beginning of this guide to help craft a brief summary statement.	
Be prepared to discuss why you're interested in this opportunity. Consider how this role applies to your career goals and interests.	

Be prepared to discuss your experience with or knowledge of the listed requirements. For example, they might ask you about your knowledge of network security protocols or experience with handling an incident response scenario. Be ready to discuss exactly what they laid out in the job description or what you understand about the role in general.	
Be prepared to discuss how you stay current on the cyber industry (podcasts, news feeds, YouTubers, etc.).	
Be prepared to discuss examples of when you solved a problem. Initiative and analytical skills are crucial in security. Think of examples when you put these on display.	
Be prepared to discuss how you work on a team. You will work with diverse teams and stakeholders in security. To be successful you'll have to provide examples of successfully working in a team-oriented environment.	
Be prepared to discuss your weaknesses. Don't label yourself during this question! Make it all about the job responsibilities and skills (e.g., "I don't have direct experience with XYZ tool but here's my understanding of it ...").	

Take this opportunity to discuss your shortcomings and how you'll overcome those and ramp up fast.	
Be prepared to discuss your strengths. Again, don't label yourself! Adjectives don't mean much here. Provide specific examples of how your experience relates to this role. What kind of value can you bring based on what you know about the role? Example: "Based on what you've told me so far, your team really values XYZ skill. I am confident in my ability to ..."	
Be prepared to discuss how you handle stress and/or competing priorities. Every job will require that you prioritize and get work done efficiently. Think of examples where you've succeeded in this scenario.	
Write down 5-7 interview questions. You may only have time for 2-3 but make sure to bring thoughtful questions about the company, culture, team, and role. If you need ideas, go check out this blog post: **You're Not Asking The Right Interview Questions** Asking the right questions sho... joshfullmer.substack.com	