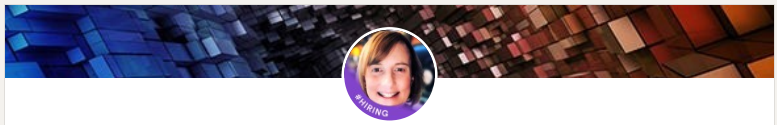

Jess Vachon

CISO | Consultant | Mentor | Speaker | CISSP | CISM | CDPSE | GSLC | GSOM

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Jess Vachon • 2nd
CISO | Consultant | Men...
2w •

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I'm going to share an opinion, based upon my career experience, and looking at the current cybersecurity landscape at the present moment. It won't be a pleasant read for some, and I am sorry for this.

If you are new to cybersecurity and you don't have at a minimum, one or two internships under your belt or you aren't currently working in IT, you probably are not going to win an entry-level role for at least a year or two.

If you have been in cybersecurity, haven't been to any training in the last three years, eschewed certifications, and didn't pursue a higher degree, and you are currently out of work, you are going to have a long stretch of job hunting before you find the right role.

If you haven't been a great peer to work with, if you've been rude to vendor partners, if you haven't built up quality industry relationships over your career, then you will have few avenues to pursue for finding your next job.

The cybersecurity landscape is going through unique changes and challenges. The job-hunting process for information security professionals is completely different than it was two years ago, and it isn't going back to the way it was. What you needed to know then, is not what you need to know now.

So, what should you do?

If you are new to cybersecurity, think seriously about pivoting to an open service desk role. This is a great way to break into IT, gain experience, and network with the security folks. Getting paid and getting real-world experience trumps just having certifications and schooling. Go to every single networking event you can. Networks get you jobs – ask anyone who has recently been hired. Chances are most new hires in security made a personal connection that led them to the opening.

For the seasoned professionals, it's time to get back into learning. Anything security for cloud, AI, and IaC, is where you should focus. You'll also need to invest in some of those certification courses you've avoided and if you don't have a degree, consider pursuing one. Adding a statement that you can still learn and grow to a

portfolio of experience will move you toward the front of the applicant line.

The hiring scene for cybersecurity isn't fun for anyone anymore, but you can create an advantage for yourself by choosing the less followed path.

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Kassidy Hall (She/Her) • 2nd
Information Security Professional | GRC | Security Analytics | 🏳️‍⚧️ LGBTQ & Neurodivergent ♾️
2w

For the seasoned professionals, I'd suggest making it a high priority to take a Business Administration course to understand how to communicate why information security is relevant.

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Jess Vachon (She/Her) Author
CISO | Consultant | Mentor | Speaker | CISSP | CISM | CDPSE | GSLC | GSOM
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Kassidy Hall this!!!!

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Cathy O. (She/Her) • 2nd
Customer Success Director, CyberSaint Security | Founder, The Triangle Net LLC | Podcast Host, Journey into Cybersecurity | Board Member | Mentor
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Kassidy Hall 💯

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Jim Bertel (He/Him) • 2nd
Security GRC Leader 👨‍💼 | Expanding my horizons in Cloud Security, Automation, & Generative AI 🧠 | Helping organizations make better risk-informed decisions 🔍 | Lifelong Learner 🎓 | CISSP, CISM, CRISC
2w (edited)

For seasoned professionals I would additionally include automation. We're moving towards doing more with less (IMO).

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Jess Vachon (She/Her) Author
CISO | Consultant | Mentor | Speaker | CISSP | CISM | CDPSE | GSLC | GSOM
2w

Jim Bertel yes! I missed adding that!

Like · 1

Brent Gallo - CISSP • 2nd
Founder & CEO at Hire a Cyber Pro | Cybersecurity Consultant & Recruiter | Helping Business Leaders Identify and Reduce their Cybersecurity Risks | M.S. Cybersecurity | CISSP | More Certs | vCISO | CMMC | USAF Vet
2w

Join the Air Force. Training, experience, certifications, college, and a clearance. Put in the 4-6 years of work, and you'll be ahead of those who start from the bottom in the same 4-6 years.

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Jason Alano • 2nd
Military Veteran | US Navy Nuclear Trained | Certified through CompTIA, EC-Council, ISC2, and PMI | Recently passed the CISSP exam and obtained Associate of ISC2 | Active member of the VFW | Hometown: Guam, USA
2w •••

Rae Bruenjes, CISSP, not sure how fast internet access is these days on a ship but the mere Kilobytes download speeds aboard the aircraft carrier circa early 2000s wouldn't help someone (who didn't choose an IT / Cyber rating) get the training/experienc ...see more

Like · 1

Talene B. (She/Her) • 2nd
Bringing ✨ teacher magic ✨ to computer science and cybersecurity
2w •••

I'm pivoting from language education into cybersecurity, and you've articulated the job search landscape for us career shifters to a T. 👏 While it can be rough out there, I remain hardworking and hopeful...in large part because of posts like yours that offer valuable insight and a ...see more

Like · 3

Evan Grace • 2nd
Sales Engineer | Security Engineer
2w •••

"If you haven't been a great peer to work with, if you've been rude to vendor partners"

This is my definition of personal brand. Lots of people say personal brand doesn't matter, but it's how you ...see more

Like · 16

Rae Bruenjes, CISSP (She/Her) • 2nd
Cybersecurity Leader | Mentor | Veteran
2w •••

It's a longer route, but job and skills guaranteed - think about joining the military, active or reserves. There are a lot of adjacent fields that are relevant - Intelligence, IT professional, Cyber (defense or offense) professional, Cyber training/education, exercise planner, doc ...see more

Like · 4 | 1 Reply

Brent Gallo - CISSP • 2nd
Founder & CEO at Hire a Cyber Pro | Cybersecurity Consultant & Recruiter | Helping Business Leaders Identify and Reduce their Cybersecurity Risks | M.S. Cybersecurity | CISSP | More Certs | vCISO | CMMC | USAF Vet
2w •••

Rae Bruenjes, CISSP with the competition today, I think the military would be a shorter route. And you'll come out on top!!

Like · 2

Mea Clift (She/Her) • 2nd
2w •••
Cybersecurity Leader | Developing/Maturing Enterprise Risk Programs | Implementing Cybersecurity Frameworks

I think you hit on some really relevant points, but I think there's a big thing that you're pointing out as well- there is no Entry Level into Cybersecurity. And there needs to be. So what can we within our organizations do to help open those doors and build those longer term pipelin ...see more

Like · 15

James "D0c" M. • 2nd
2w •••
Growing Human Who Still Likes to Play with Tech, Leads People, Builds and Teaches

Entry-level jobs require experience, but where do you get experience? How to build the network? For those of you struggling to find that next job, I am #heretohelp

Certifications open the HR door; the best invest ...see more

Like · 5

Sam Lockwood (Any) • 2nd
2w •••
Cybersecurity Professional | Perpetual Student | Humanist

I have 1 year experience in cybersecurity as a security analyst, a BS&MS in cybersecurity, and almost any certification you could think of. I've been looking for work for 6 months and I've only had 2 interviews. It's worse than this post is even putting it. I had to comment on ...see more

Like · 8

Luke Gendron • 2nd
2w •••
Your dedicated partner in hiring IT and Executive level talent. Hiring the right people shouldn't be hard, ask me today to help you simplify it.

Well said Jess Vachon, hitting in this space has changed so much.

I think it'll not only be painful for the job seekers but for the companies too. You used to be able to post ope ...see more

Like · 3

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