



Alana S.

Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance | TPRM | Cyber Educator & Mentor

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Alana S. · 2nd

Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance...

1yr · 🌐

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This post is for the people actively trying to break into cyber or the ones considering doing so. There's some things I'd like to address here for you to consider.

This is in no way a negative post or meant to discourage. I want ALL of you here fighting the good fight with us! But working in cyber is not all glam and big bucks.

1. If you aren't passionate about cyber or tech, this industry is going to be difficult for you.

Passion and curiosity drive every one of us who are already in cyber. We find it fascinating. That's why we're here, and that's why we stay. You WILL struggle if you think it's boring and just want to collect a paycheck and you heard cyber pays fat. You'll also likely end up looking for work in another industry after a couple years with all of your time, energy, and money wasted. If you are in a niche of cyber that isn't stirring that fire within you, you can always pivot--you're not stuck!

2. If you aren't interested in being a lifelong student, this industry is going to be difficult for you.

Cyber and tech are constantly changing. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new. If you want to obtain certs, many require continuing education credits for upkeep and a re-certification exam down the road. You will also come up against random things all the time, and if you are not driven enough to find the answers on your own, it'll be hard to do your work. I would submit that most of us in cyber are self-starting and self-sufficient, which is why we do well. Again, if you're passionate, this shouldn't be a problem.

3. If you do not like reaching out and connecting with people, this industry is going to be difficult for you.

Cyber is unlike other careers in where you go to school, learn your stuff, and then head out, land a job, and that's that. Networking, interacting, getting involved, sharing what you're doing and learning, and getting your face out there so we know who you are and what you have to offer are of the utmost importance. Believe it or not, jobs can begin to come to you because of this! You will grow extremely discouraged if all you want to do is apply blindly to jobs and beg for work in a post on LinkedIn.

4. If you are a bare minimum type of person, this industry is going to be difficult for you.

You can get buried quickly if you are not doing all of the above to keep your knowledge current, experience relevant, and contacts updated. A day will come that you will want to change jobs, and if you have nothing to show for what you've been doing, you've not bothered to learn new skills, and you haven't tried to network or interact, moving around is going to be tough.

If you read all this and think "I can do this! That's me!" then excellent! You will do well and go far. Go kick some butt!

#ImOnly #womenincybersecurity #sharingiscaring #knowledgeispower #dare2try #GoWinTheDay #cybersecurity

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**August Samples** • 1st

1y ...

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Well said [Alana S.](#). Anyone that reads this and takes this in a negative light probably isn't ready for how hard the field is.

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**Chris Perry** • 3rd+

1y ...

Patch Management Specialist/IMD

Good points. But I also see where people around you are used to you being in a given role: system administrator, system engineer, and what not. I see some of the problems is that people see you only for what they hired you for, therefore more practical experience which would help one fully pivot doesn't happen. of course, the response then is to c ...see more

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**Alana S.** Author

1y ...

Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance | TPRM | Cyber Educator & Mentor

Totally understand that viewpoint! Not trying to make anything sound easy here, because it's not. And what might look easy or lucky doesn't detail all the effort on the backside of that supposed ease or luck.

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**Jack H.** • 2nd

1y ...

Network, Web App & Mobile App Penetration Tester | Security Analyst / Cybersecurity Researcher | B.S. in Cybersecurity

[Alana S.](#) It takes a lot of work to make any of this look easy.

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**Adam K. (He/Him)** • 2nd

1y ...

M.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance CEH Pentest+ Security+ (OSCP soon)

3 kind of stuck with me as I'm aware that has been my challenge. I'm always open to connecting with others and doing whatever I can to be of any service but I am horrible at asking for something for myself. I don't know if it's a matter of pride or not believing anyone anyone will help (based on past experiences). ...see more

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**Alana S.** Author

1y (edited) ...

Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance | TPRM | Cyber Educator & Mentor

What exactly are you trying to do? What type of roles are you seeking? Maybe the people here in these comments have some advice.

If I may (because I know you didn't ask me)... I am in the : ...see more

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**James Driscoll CySA** • 2nd

1y ...

M.S. Candidate in Cybersecurity Operations | Regulatory Compliance | Cybersecurity Content Creator | First Responder | System Administrator | Airfield Operations Specialist | Air Force Veteran

Everything you said is spot on. Especially the learning part. With technology and adversaries constantly evolving, there is something new to learn everyday.

I explain it like this. If a person is not willing to constantly learn ...see more

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**Alana S.** Author

1y ...

Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance | TPRM | Cyber Educator & Mentor

Well said!!

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**Shawn Thomas** • 2nd

1y ...

Threat Detection and Response Leader

I want so many of these expectations to change personally. We as an industry use every one of those to burn people to the ground and take horrible advantage of them in multiple ways. There is nothing wrong with going to work, doing a good job, and going home, and we all need to start acting like that's ok.

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**Alana S.** · Author

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Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance | TPRM | Cyber Educator & Mentor

I literally did not say or promote any of what you just typed. But thank you again for your opinion.

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**Bob Malin** · 2nd

1y ...

Cybersecurity | SOC | Managed Security Services

Amen to that.

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**Jarrad S. (He/Him)** · 2nd

1y ...

CyberSecurity | SecOps Engineering | SecOps Governance | Solution Architecture | Leadership | Mentoring | Neurodivergent

I just wanted to highlight point 3 in particular. You have to be able to engage with people not just in networking, but in your actual job. Cyber is not a silo, and you should expect to interact and engage with peers across many different aspects of a business, from risk and privacy, to ICT, to Shadow IT, to management and everyone in between. ...see more

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**Alana S.** · Author

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Information Security Risk Analyst II | Privacy & Compliance | TPRM | Cyber Educator & Mentor

Thank you! I actually highlighted this in my original post, but I ran out of characters and had to delete things. I appreciate you calling it out.

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**Stuart G, CISSP** · 2nd

1y ...

Passionate Geek, coder, debugger, Linux, and Reverse Engineer hobbyist

I would add check into the job (not cyber, but defender, pen tester, software eng, specific job) you THINK you want and be prepared for the NOT so sexy. I've talked with a few about this...many think it's 75% keyboard work and many times that is SO far from the truth. Pen test in govt can be 20% keyboard and 80% meetings, planning, travel ...see more

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**Alana S.** · Author

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[Daniel R.](#) food for thought

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**Austin Willhoit, CISSP** · 2nd

1y ...

Manager - Engineering and Security | Cybersecurity Operations | CISSP, GCFA, Sec +

Out of that 20% of keyboard time, 99% of it is used following SoP's / Playbooks, so be prepared to add working on those to the other 80%.

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**Chad F.** · 2nd

1y ...

Husband · Girl Dad · Security Professional · Public Speaker (inspiring tens of people)

These are a byproduct of toxic leadership. None of these are necessary to go far in the industry. These are only expectations if we allow them to be and continue to set ourselves up for abuse.

I've been fortunate enough to have good leadership that didn't ...see more

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**Alana S.** · Author

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Disagree. I don't gatekeep, and I started my post off with that statement. This is reality, as many below have agreed with and supported.

...see more

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**Nick A.** · 2nd

Honor | Intelligence | Adaptability

1y ...

I agree with you ☁️ Chad Fryer ☁️ ; I think we allow these types of expectations to continue because we see some sense of honor in the suffering. It helps justify the time and sacrifice we've had to put in.

...see more

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**Kimberly B.** · 2nd

Cybersecurity

1y ...

Excellent post, I'd have to say lifelong student is my favorite part of cyber. There is so much to learn. It's infinite. I like sitting down and reading a book about a topic I want to understand more. Learning is just something I'll always be passionate about! It's fun!

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**Alana S.** Author

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Cyber Educator & Mentor

1y ...

Don't be nervous!

Wanna hear something funny? The role I just landed internally; during the interview I said I'm worried I'm under qualified. He was shocked and said really?! I was worried you were over qualified! So you NEVER know what people are thinking when they ...see more

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