

CAREER PLAN AS AN ETHICAL HACKER

CYBERSECURITY ROLE: ETHICAL HACKER

REQUIRED EDUCATION/BACKGROUND

B.Sc. or HND in the following formal degree

Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Information Technology, or Networking.

There is also self taught which is common in the field. This involves self learners using online courses, books, and hands-on practice

Technical Knowledge Required:

Networking (TCP/IP, DNS, Subnetting)

Operating Systems (Windows, Linux – especially Kali Linux)

Programming/Scripting Languages: Python, Bash, JavaScript, SQL

System Security Concepts

Virtualization & Cloud Platforms

RECOMMENDED CERTIFICATIONS

Beginner Level:

CompTIA IT Fundamentals (ITF+)

CompTIA A+

Google Cybersecurity Certificate (Free on Coursera with financial aid)

Intermediate Level:

CompTIA Network+

CompTIA Security+

Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate

Advanced Level:

Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) – EC-Council

eLearnSecurity Junior Penetration Tester (eJPT)

Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP) – by Offensive Security

Specialization:

Certified Penetration Testing Engineer (CPTE)

Certified Red Team Professional (CRTP)

Certified Web Application Penetration Tester (eWPT)

AVERAGE SALARY RANGE

Nigeria (Local Estimates):

Entry-Level: ₦2,000,000 – ₦4,000,000/year

Mid-Level: ₦4,500,000 – ₦7,000,000/year

Senior-Level: ₦8,000,000 – ₦12,000,000/year

International (USD):

Entry-Level: \$55,000 – \$85,000/year

Mid-Level: \$85,000 – \$120,000/year

Senior-Level / Red Team Lead: \$120,000 – \$180,000+/year

LONG-TERM CAREER PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Lateral or Advanced Roles:

Penetration Tester, Malware Analyst, Threat Intelligence Analyst, Security Researcher, e.t.c.

Senior & Leadership Roles:

Security Consultant, Security Architect, Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Cybersecurity Manager, Security Operations Center (SOC) Lead

Freelance/Entrepreneurship:

Launch your own cybersecurity firm, Conduct training & workshops, Join bug bounty platforms (e.g., HackerOne, Bugcrowd