

**Written by Zaid Sabih**  
**Founder and CEO of zSecurity**  
**How to become a hacker?**  
**January 2020**

# How to become an **ETHICAL HACKER**

02 | 01 | 2020

## CONTACT

[www.zsecurity.org](http://www.zsecurity.org)  
[info@zsecurity.org](mailto:info@zsecurity.org)

 **ZSECURITY**

# **CONTENTS**

- 1. Introduction.**
- 2. Learning hacking out of interest.**
- 3. Working as an ethical hacker.**
- 4. Special cases.**
- 5. Conclusion.**

# INTRODUCTION

## How to become a hacker?!

A very common question that beginners often ask is “how do I become a hacker?”

The answer to this really depends on why you want to learn hacking or become a hacker, is it because you’re just interested in it? Is it because you want to test the security of a system? Maybe you want to secure a specific system? Or do you want to make a career out of it?

In this ebook we are going to answer this question and discuss fove paths that you can follow to learn hacking and become an ethical hacker.

---

# LEARN HACKING OUT OF INTEREST

If you want to learn hacking just because you're interested in it or because you want to test the security of a system or if you want to secure your own system; in all of these cases you do not need to prove you have the hacking skills, you're only interested in learning hacking as a skill, just like any other skill you can go on Google and search for "how to hack" or "how to learn hacking" and you'll get a lot of useful resources, this is how I learned hacking, the best thing about this option is it's completely free.

If you don't have time to go through all of the free resources and through all of the information Google returns, and you just want a specific path or a curriculum that will take you from one stage to another then an online course is what you're looking for, there are a lot of hacking courses these days and a lot of them are very good, I teach a number of hacking courses myself, you can find my courses the following link or you can simply search Google for hacking courses.

<https://zsecurity.org/courses/>

## Free Hacking Resources

<https://zsecurity.org/>  
<http://www.irongeek.com/>  
<https://packetstormsecurity.com/>  
<https://null-byte.wonderhowto.com/>  
<https://google.com/>  
<https://youtube.com/>

## Conclusion

Do your own research and see which is useful for you , I did not learn from any courses, I learned through the free method, I was literally just searching Google and other websites for the topics I wanted to learn, I just had a lot of free time on my hands so I was able to find what's

useful out of all the miss-leading information, test it and learn from it. What also helped me a lot is contributing to the websites and communities that I learned from, I noticed making a video or a tutorial about a topic helped me understand that topic much more, not to mention the connections you make with like-minded people and the doors these connections open, you might even get a job this way.

# WORKING AS ETHICAL HACKER

If you want to get a job as an ethical hacker or as a cybersecurity expert, having the skills is simply not enough, although some of my students got jobs simply by relying on my courses, in general online courses work great as an add-on to existing experience or to a cyber security degree, or at least a degree in IT.

So if you want to work as an ethical hacker and you do not have any experience and you do not have any IT related qualifications, you'll need 2 things:

1. Get the skills as explained earlier

2. Gain experience and build a name for yourself

## 5 Ways to get hacking experience & get your name out there

### Get Certified!



Certificates such as CEH and OSCP are very attractive to employers, obtaining these certificates also improves your experience and cyber security knowledge.

### Capture the flag competitions (CTFs)



CTFs simulate real vulnerabilities, participating in these competitions improves your skills, helps you make new connections and gets your name out there.

### Get involved in bug bounty programs



In bug bounty programs you get to practice hacking against real systems legally, you also get paid for the bugs you discover and your name gets listed on the leaderboard.

### Contribute to the community



Writing articles, tutorials or making videos about hacking helps you learn more, make new connections and get recognised in ethical hacking communities.

### Freelance



Once you get enough experience you can start freelancing, this way you'll get paid, get more practice, more experience and more famous,

# LEARNING HACKING OUT OF INTEREST - SPECIFIC CASES



## Already have I.T degree / experience

In this case you might be able to start without having to do too much, all you need is obviously the skills which you can get as mentioned previously, then you can start applying for jobs, you can still follow the 5 tips mentioned earlier to enhance your CV but they are not necessary because of your existing I.T experience / degree(s).



## Still in school

In this case you need to first get the skills as explained earlier, follow the 5 tips to get experience, and then go to an I.T related course in college, you don't have to do a cybersecurity course, this is what I did, I did a computer science course and while doing it I kept learning about hacking, I kept contributing to the communities, kept working on my profile to get experience and to get myself noticed. By the time I graduated I got a lot of job offers in cybersecurity.



## Studying I.T course in college

In this case you'll need to get the skills as mentioned earlier, follow the 5 tips to get experience and get noticed. By the time you graduate you're gonna be extra lucky because you can apply for graduate positions, in these positions you'll get trained, paid, you'll get experience and some of them will even pay for you to do cyber security certifications.

# CONCLUSION

This should help most people understand what they need to do to become hackers, it really depends on how bad you want it and how much time and effort you are willing to put into it, I know several people earning more than \$300,000 a year working in cybersecurity without qualifications! One of them didn't even go to college.

So it really has nothing to do with going to college, it has nothing to do with your certifications, obviously if you have them they make the road easier but you can always get into it and achieve your goal if you put enough time and effort.

## GET STARTED



**ZAID SABIH**

Ethical Hacker, Computer Scientist  
& CEO of zSecurity

<https://zsecurity.org>

zSECURITY