

Lab - Research IT and Networking Job Opportunities

Step 1 & 2: Job Search Summary

Websites used: LinkedIn, rabota.md, Glassdoor, PayScale, and Indeed

Search location: Chisinau, Moldova; also searched remote positions and Romania, Eastern Europe

Search terms used: Network Administrator, SOC Analyst, Cybersecurity Analyst, Cybersecurity Specialist, Information Security Analyst, Network Security Engineer, Cisco CCNA, CCNP.

Step 2c - Did you find jobs in the locations you entered?

Yes. When searching for cybersecurity and network administration jobs in Chisinau, Moldova, I found several positions on LinkedIn, including Senior Network Engineer, Cybersecurity Specialist (embedded systems), System Administrator, IT Support Specialist, Service Desk Administrator, and Sr Cybersecurity Advisor

Reflection Questions

1. What job titles did you search for?

I searched for the following job titles: Network Administrator, SOC Analyst (Security Operations Center Analyst), Cybersecurity Analyst, Cybersecurity Specialist, Information Security Analyst, Network Security Engineer, Junior Penetration Tester, IT Security Consultant, and System Administrator. I also tried refining searches with certification keywords like Cisco CCNA, CCNP, CompTIA Security+, and Hack The Box (HTB) to see how they affected results.

2. What skills or certifications were required?

The most commonly required skills and certifications I found across the job listings were: knowledge of TCP/IP, networking protocols, and the OSI model; experience with SIEM platforms (such as Splunk, QRadar, or ArcSight); understanding of firewalls, IDS/IPS, and endpoint security solutions; familiarity with Linux and Windows system administration; and scripting skills in Python or Bash. For certifications, employers frequently listed Cisco CCNA, CompTIA Security+, CompTIA Network+, CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker), and OSCP. Many positions also required or preferred a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or a related field. For SOC Analyst roles specifically, experience with log analysis, incident response, and threat detection was commonly required. Some positions in Moldova also required knowledge of Romanian or Russian languages.

3. Did you find any jobs that you previously did not know existed? If so, what were they?

Yes, I discovered several job titles I was not previously aware of. One was "Cybersecurity Specialist - Embedded Systems," which was listed in Moldova and focuses on securing hardware and firmware in IoT and industrial devices rather than traditional IT networks. Another was "Sr Cybersecurity Advisor" for international organizations, which is more of a consulting and policy role helping governments and institutions improve their cyber defenses. I also found "Digital Forensics Analyst" positions, which involve investigating cyberattacks after they occur to collect evidence and understand what happened. Additionally, I learned about "Threat Intelligence Analyst" roles, where the job is to research and predict future cyber threats by studying hacker groups and malware trends. These positions showed me that cybersecurity is a much broader field than I initially thought.

4. Did you find any jobs that you are interested in? If so, which ones and what skills or certifications do they require?

Yes, I found several jobs that strongly match my interests and current career path:

SOC Analyst (Security Operations Center Analyst): This role aligns directly with my Hack The Box SOC Analyst training. It requires skills in SIEM tools (like Splunk or QRadar), log analysis, incident response, and threat detection. Certifications like CompTIA Security+, Cisco CyberOps Associate, and the HTB CDSA (Certified Defensive Security Analyst) are valued. Entry-level SOC Analyst salaries in Moldova start around \$24,000-\$33,000/year, with significant growth potential. In Eastern Europe, remote SOC roles can pay \$50,000-\$70,000 when working for Western companies.

Cybersecurity Analyst: This broader role involves monitoring, analyzing, and responding to security threats. It requires knowledge of networking, vulnerability management, and security frameworks. The average salary in Moldova is approximately \$41,000/year. Required certifications include CompTIA Security+, CEH, or Cisco CCNA CyberOps, along with a background in IT or Computer Science.

Junior Penetration Tester: This offensive security role involves testing systems for vulnerabilities. It requires skills in ethical hacking, knowledge of tools like Burp Suite, Nmap, and Metasploit, and scripting in Python. Certifications like OSCP, HTB CPTS, or CEH are highly valued. This role is particularly appealing because it combines technical problem-solving with my interest in cybersecurity.

My current training through Hack The Box's SOC course, combined with my Coursera certificates in cybersecurity and web development (Django, .NET), and my internship experience, gives me a good foundation to pursue these roles. To further strengthen my profile, I plan to work toward certifications like CompTIA Security+, Cisco CCNA, and eventually the HTB CDSA or OSCP.