



CAREERS IN CYBERSECURITY

(AND MY EXPERIENCES)

JEREMIAH SALAMON

- Working in technology for the past 20 years
- Focused on Information Security for more than 10 years
- Currently Information Security Director for a premier law firm in Boston
- Previously ran Architecture and Engineering teams in Management Consulting and Healthcare
- OWASP Boston Chapter Leader
- Husband, Father, youth sports coach, hiker, and do-it-yourselfer



TO MEME OR NOT TO MEME?

THAT IS THE QUESTION

AGENDA

- **Career Paths** – *specialty or generalist. Manager, individual contributor, or entrepreneur.*
- **Early Education and First Job**– *high school, college and internships/co-ops.*
- **Continuing Education** – *certificates and conferences.*
- **Outside of Work** – *extra curricular activities.*
- **Goal Setting & Mentorship** – *accomplishing something, with help.*

**ME WAITING
TO FIND OUT**

WHAT MY PASSION IS

CAREER PATHS

- **Specialist**

Focus on a specific discipline (e.g. application security), deep knowledge about a single or a few subject(s).

- **Generalist**

Focused on a wider collection of disciplines (e.g. cybersecurity as a whole).

- **Individual Contributor**

Contributes without managing people, can rise to a senior position by providing specialist or generalist expertise.

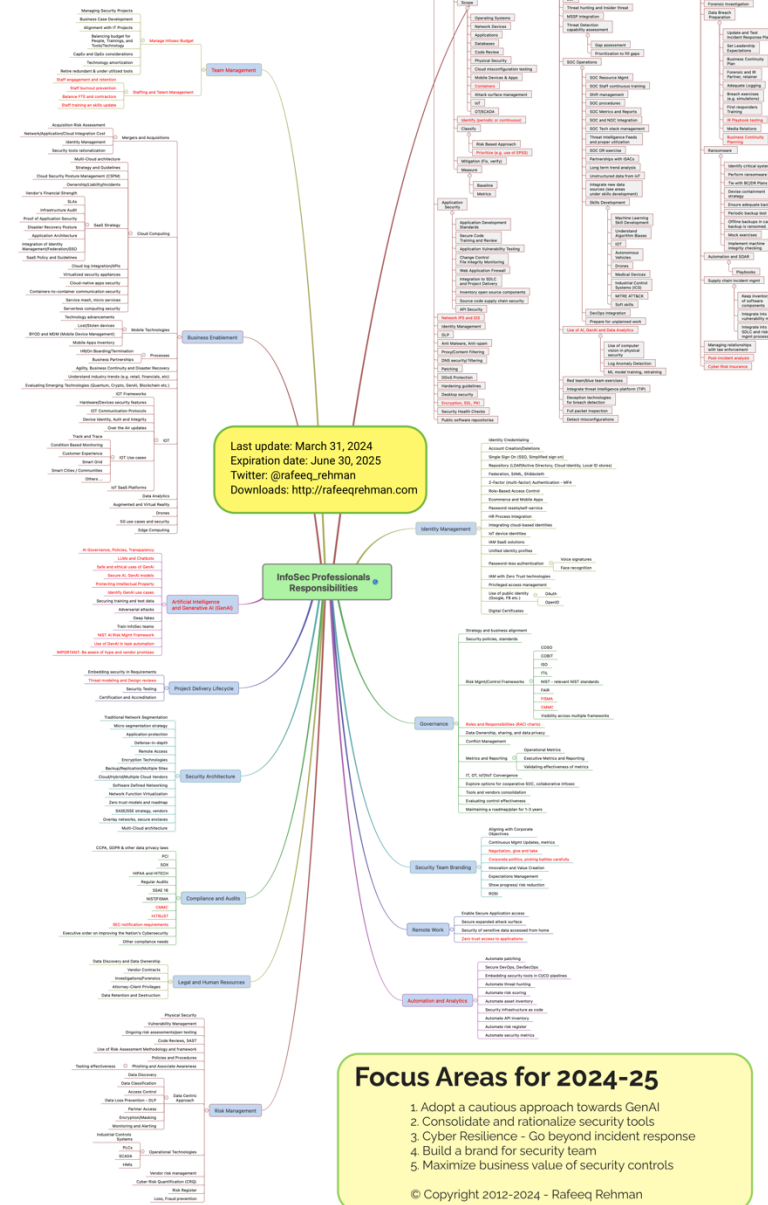
- **Manager**

Helps lead a team by organizing and tasking out work, depending on team size and organizational structure may also contribute based on expertise

- **Entrepreneur**

Runs a company and can be a combination of a specialist, generalist, individual contributor (as owner) or manager.

What do Security Professionals Really do?



Focus Areas for 2024-25

1. Adopt a cautious approach towards GenAI
2. Consolidate and rationalize security tools
3. Cyber Resilience - Go beyond incident response
4. Build a brand for security team
5. Maximize business value of security controls

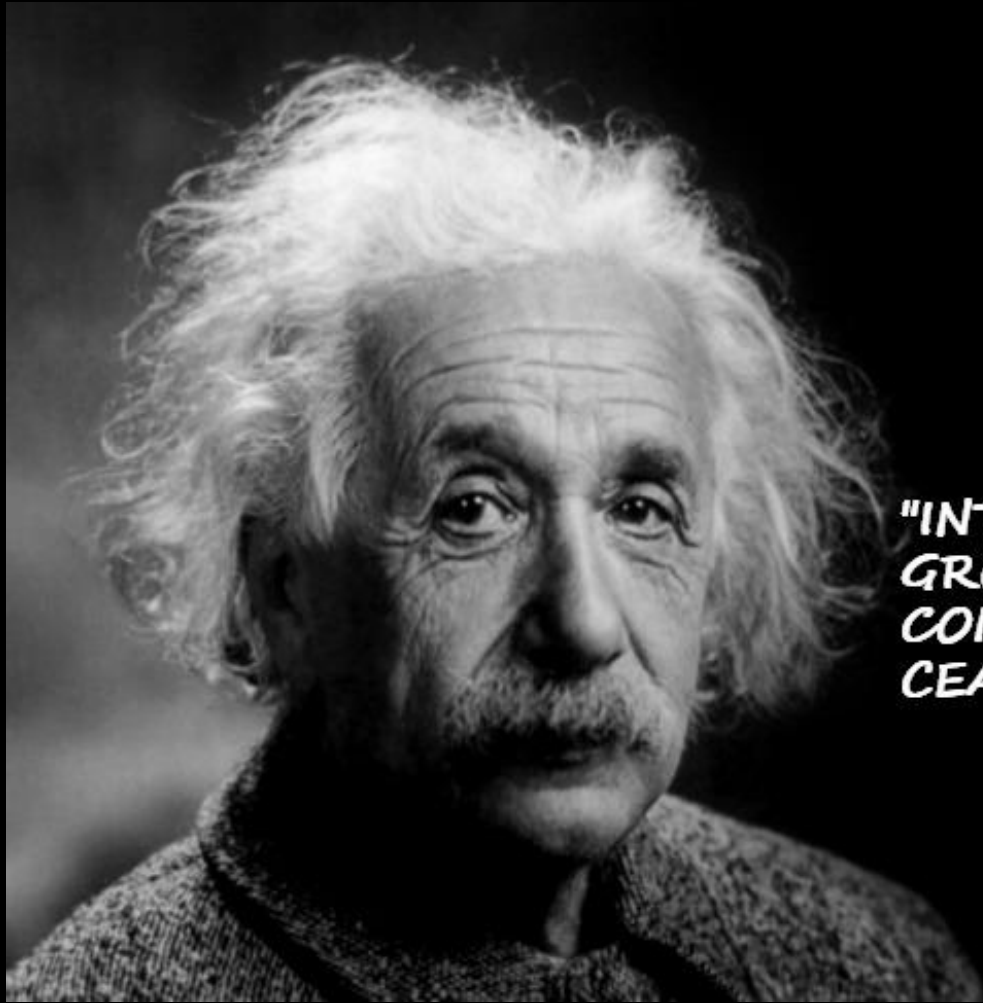
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EARLY EDUCATION AND FIRST CAREER JOBS

- Career education in a specific path can start as early as middle school with clubs and other extra circular activities, that boost applications for college but aren't typically big on resumes.
- College degree specialities and experience from co-ops or internships carry more weight in early job applications
- A set of personal accomplishments such as projects on GitHub or part-time work are very good on a resume



1300+ CYBERSECURITY JOBS IN THE US
ACCORDING TO INDEED.COM



**"INTELLECTUAL
GROWTH SHOULD
COMMENCE AT BIRTH AND
CEASE ONLY AT DEATH"**

Albert Einstein

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Obtain certifications or at least take the trainings.
- Look for jobs that provide training online and(/or) in-person.
- Consume free resources online: YouTube, LinkedIn, etc.
- Read. Books are great!



LEARNING

I create myself

OUTSIDE OF WORK

- Establish a large professional network but keep a small group of professional friends/advisors you can consult with.
- Connect with coworkers who might be in positions you are interested in. Provide value to them to want to talk to you or try to establish mentor/mentee relationship.
- Attend conferences that meet your goals (talk about that in a bit).
- Participant in local meetup groups related to your career interests (e.g. Null NEU and OWASP!)

**I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU
ARE**



**BUT I'M GOING TO GO TO A
NETWORKING EVENT AND MEET
YOU**

GOAL SETTING

Short-term

Goals established that are typically measurable either on scale or binary.

Long-term

More than a few months but less than a few years.

Long-long-term

Many years, 5-10 years or even more.

At Work

Used to measure your performance in your current role. Strive for these to be something you can measure to prove you are accomplishing them. Measurement can be binary but must be clear in the outcome expectations, a truly measurable valuable.

Personal

Career aspirations and monetary goals.

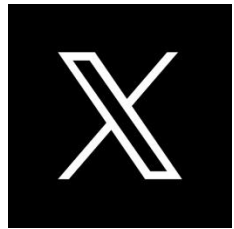
**IF A MENTOR IS LEARNING FROM A STUDENT WHILE
THE STUDENT IS LEARNING FROM THE MENTOR**



**...WHO IS THE MENTOR, AND WHO IS
THE STUDENT?**

memegenerator.net

THANK YOU!



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