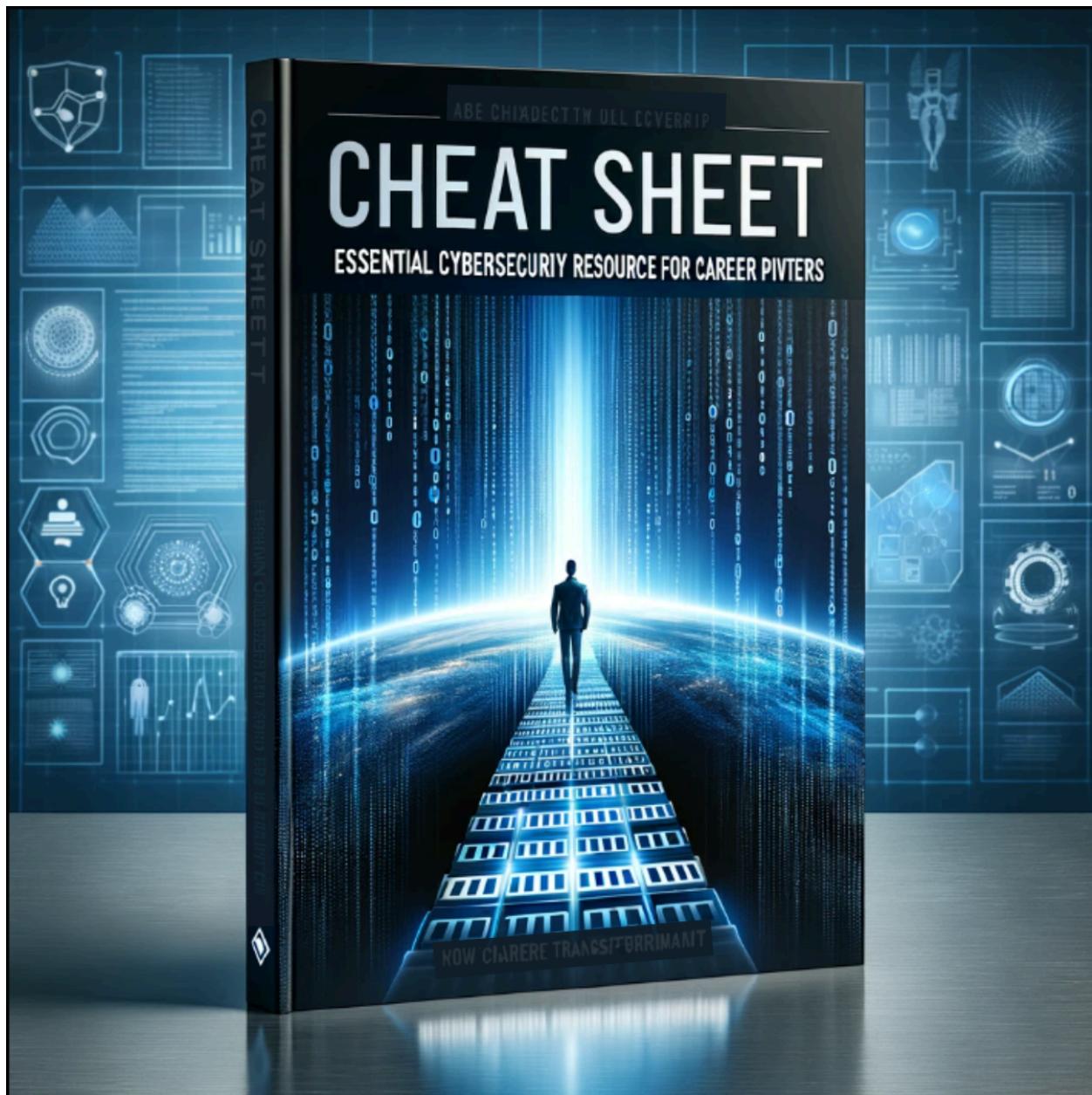


Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

Feeling lost in a sea of cybersecurity resources? Don't panic!

-Gerald Auger, PhD



Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

Hi! 

Navigating the vast ocean of cybersecurity learning can be daunting, especially for career changers. You're bombarded with courses, tutorials, certifications, and conflicting advice, leaving you unsure where to start and what's truly relevant.

Sound familiar? This cheat sheet is your life raft! 

I've cut through the clutter and curated actionable insights specifically for mid-career professionals like you. No more endless scrolling! This cheat sheet is logically organized by functional areas like security analyst, pen tester, and incident responder.

Below, you'll find:

- A custom video by me explaining how to utilize these resources (*clicking and going somewhere and then not knowing what to do once you're there is frustrating*)
 - Essential skills for each area, clearly prioritized for beginners.
 - Hand-picked resources, from online courses to certifications, to save you time and effort.
 - Expert tips on building your resume, acing interviews, and landing your dream cybersecurity job.

No more feeling overwhelmed! This cheat sheet is your roadmap to success, helping you chart your learning journey and confidently launch your cybersecurity career.

Enjoy!

Gerry at Simply Cyber
<https://simplycyber.io/Socials>

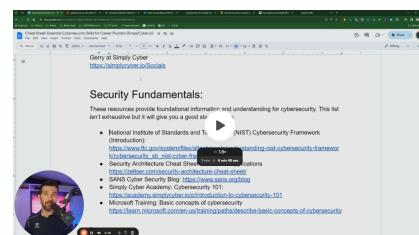
Security Fundamentals:

These resources provide foundational information and understanding for cybersecurity. This list isn't exhaustive but it will give you a good starting base.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. ☺

Deeper details video on this section [Click here](#):

- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework (Introduction):
https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/attachments/understanding-nist-cybersecurity-framework/cybersecurity_sb_nist-cyber-framework.pdf



Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

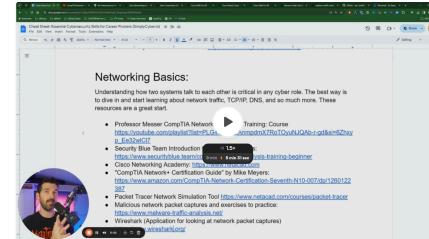
- Security Architecture Cheat Sheet for Internet Applications
<https://zeltser.com/security-architecture-cheat-sheet/>
- SANS Cyber Security Blog: <https://www.sans.org/blog>
- Simply Cyber Academy: Cybersecurity 101:
<https://academy.simplycyber.io/p/introduction-to-cybersecurity-101>
- Microsoft Training: Basic concepts of cybersecurity
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/paths/describe-basic-concepts-of-cybersecurity>
- How Cybersecurity Really Works: A Hands-On Guide for Total Beginners by Sam Grubb (Book) <https://a.co/d/3x9KiqJ>
- NIST Computer Resource Center: <https://csrc.nist.gov/publications/sp>

Networking Basics:

Understanding how two systems talk to each other is critical in any cyber role. The best way is to dive in and start learning about network traffic, TCP/IP, DNS, and so much more. These resources are a great start.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click here:](#)



- Professor Messer CompTIA Network+ N10-007 Training: Course
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLG49S3nxzAnmpdmX7RoTOyuNJQAb-r-gd&si=6Zhxy_p_Ee32wIC17
- Security Blue Team Introduction to Network Analysis:
<https://www.securityblue.team/courses/network-analysis-training-beginner>
- Cisco Networking Academy: <https://www.netacad.com>
- "CompTIA Network+ Certification Guide" by Mike Meyers:
<https://www.amazon.com/CompTIA-Network-Certification-Seventh-N10-007/dp/1260122387>
- Packet Tracer Network Simulation Tool <https://www.netacad.com/courses/packet-tracer>
- Malicious network packet captures and exercises to practice: <https://www.malware-traffic-analysis.net/>

Because handling and working with malware can be dangerous, I've made a quick video about this malicious network packet capture you should watch before using this resource. You can watch it [here](#):
- A non-malicious (aka safe) network packet capture and exercise you can use to learn wireshark and see packets.



Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

<https://marcellelee.medium.com/ctf-challenge-walkthrough-network-traffic-analysis-rogue-user-f87ae923130>

- Wireshark (Application for looking at network packet captures)
<https://www.wireshark.org/>

Operating Systems (OS):

As much as networking is important, the other side of the coin is understanding how computers work. These resources will help you get more familiar with essentially all Operating Systems you are likely to encounter in a cyber role.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click here:](#)



- MD-100 Support the Windows client environment
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/paths/support-windows-client-environment>
- MD-100 Configure data access and usage
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/training/paths/configure-data-access-usage/>
- Process Monitor: <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/procmon>
- Process Monitor Usage Video:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/shows/defrag-tools/4-process-monitor>
- Process Explorer:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/process-explorer>
- Process Explorer Usage Video:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/shows/defrag-tools/2-process-explorer>
- Introduction to Linux – Full Course for Beginners:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sWbUDq4S6Y8>
- How to install Linux on Windows with WSL:
<https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/wsl/install>
- Objective-See (Patrick Wardle) <https://github.com/objective-see>
- MacOS File System Basics
<https://developer.apple.com/library/archive/documentation/FileManagement/Conceptual/FileSystemProgrammingGuide/FileSystemOverview/FileSystemOverview.html>

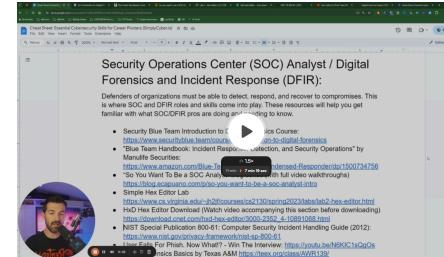
Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

Security Operations Center (SOC) Analyst / Digital Forensics and Incident Response (DFIR):

Defenders of organizations must be able to detect, respond, and recover to compromises. This is where SOC and DFIR roles and skills come into play. These resources will help you get familiar with what SOC/DFIR pros are doing and needing to know.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click here](#):



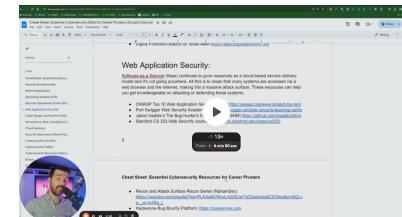
- Security Blue Team Introduction to Digital Forensics Course: <https://www.securityblue.team/courses/introduction-to-digital-forensics>
- "Blue Team Handbook: Incident Response, Detection, and Security Operations" by Manulife Securities: <https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Team-Handbook-Condensed-Responder/dp/1500734756>
- "So You Want To Be a SOC Analyst" blog series (with full video walkthroughs) <https://blog.ecapuano.com/p/so-you-want-to-be-a-soc-analyst-intro>
- Simple Hex Editor Lab <https://www.cs.virginia.edu/~jh2jf/courses/cs2130/spring2023/labs/lab2-hex-editor.html>
- HxD Hex Editor Download (Watch video accompanying this section before downloading) https://download.cnet.com/hxd-hex-editor/3000-2352_4-10891068.html
- NIST Special Publication 800-61: Computer Security Incident Handling Guide (2012): <https://www.nist.gov/privacy-framework/nist-sp-800-61>
- User Falls For Phish. Now What!? - Win The Interview: <https://youtu.be/N6KIC1sQgOs>
- Digital Forensics Basics by Texas A&M <https://teex.org/class/AWR139/>

Web Application Security:

Software-as-a-Serivce (SaaS) continues to grow massively as a cloud-based service delivery model and it's not going anywhere. All this is to mean that many systems are accessed via a web browser and the Internet, making this a massive attack surface. These resources can help you get knowledgeable on attacking or defending these systems.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click Here](#):



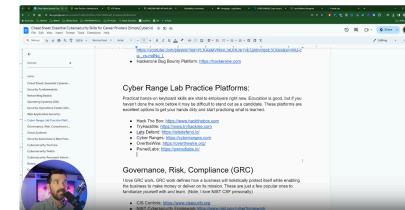
Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

- OWASP Top 10 Web Application Security Risks: <https://owasp.org/www-project-top-ten/>
- Port Swigger Web Security Academy <https://portswigger.net/web-security/learning-paths>
- Jason Haddix's The Bug Hunter's Methodology (TBHM) <https://github.com/jhaddix/tbhm>
- Stanford CS 253 Web Security course: <https://web.stanford.edu/class/cs253/>
- Recon and Attack Surface Recon Series (NahamSec)
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLKAaMVxVLmDtXJw7vEQjxbvdqeE3Q0es&si=MQ-cg-vs-mdNq_L
- Hackerone Bug Bounty Platform: <https://hackerone.com>

Cyber Range Lab Practice Platforms:

I'm a huge fan of cyber ranges. Practical hands-on keyboard skills are vital to employers right now. Education is good, but if you haven't done the work before it may be difficult to stand out as a candidate. These platforms are excellent options to get your hands dirty and start practicing what is learned.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊



Deeper details video on this section [Click Here](#):

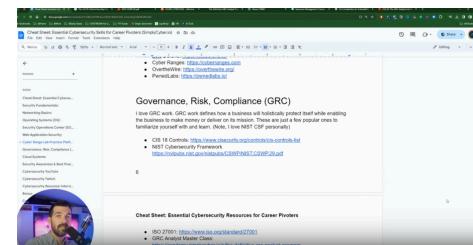
- Hack The Box: <https://www.hackthebox.com>
- TryHackMe: <https://www.tryhackme.com>
- Lets Defend: <https://letsdefend.io/>
- Cyber Ranges: <https://cyberranges.com>
- OvertheWire: <https://overthewire.org/>
- PwnedLabs: <https://pwnedlabs.io/>

Governance, Risk, Compliance (GRC):

I love GRC work. GRC work defines how a business will holistically protect itself while enabling the business to make money or deliver on its mission. These are just a few popular ones to familiarize yourself with and learn. (Note, I love NIST CSF personally)

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click Here](#):



Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

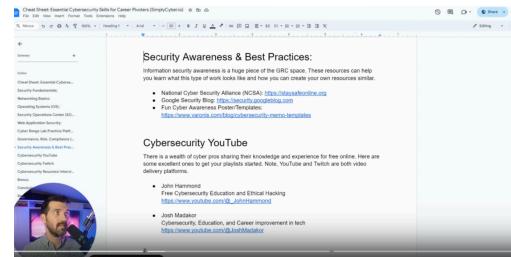
- CIS 18 Controls: <https://www.cisecurity.org/controls/cis-controls-list>
- NIST Cybersecurity Framework
<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/CSWP/NIST.CSWP.29.pdf>
- ISO 27001: <https://www.iso.org/standard/27001>
- GRC Analyst Master Class:
<https://academy.simplycyber.io/p/the-definitive-grc-analyst-program>
- CMMC 2.0 (US Government Related) <https://dodcio.defense.gov/CMMC/About/>
- NIST SP 800-171r2:
<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-171r2.pdf>
- Massive FREE Exposure Management course that I developed and built. This is definitely worth your time to check this out.
<https://xmcyber.com/exposure-management-course/>
- Security Blue Team Introduction to Vulnerability Management Course:
<https://www.securityblue.team/courses/introduction-to-vulnerability-management>
- All The GRC Analyst Job Answers YOU Want:
<https://www.youtube.com/live/3KCTCqaPzQQ?si=w2mO5P-w0r4yM2ir>

Security Awareness & Best Practices:

Information security awareness is a huge piece of the GRC space. These resources can help you learn what this type of work looks like and how you can create your own resources similar.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click Here:](#)



- National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA):
<https://staysafeonline.org>
- Google Security Blog: <https://security.googleblog.com>
- Fun Cyber Awareness Poster/Templates:
<https://www.varonis.com/blog/cybersecurity-memo-templates>

Cybersecurity YouTube:

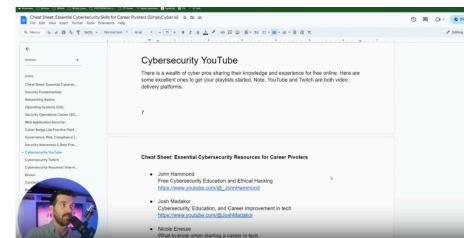
There is a wealth of cyber pros sharing their knowledge and experience for free online. Here are some excellent ones to get your playlists started. Note, YouTube and Twitch are both video delivery platforms.

Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click Here:](#)

- John Hammond
Free Cybersecurity Education and Ethical Hacking
https://www.youtube.com/@_JohnHammond
- Josh Madakor
Cybersecurity, Education, and Career improvement in tech
<https://www.youtube.com/@JoshMadakor>
- Nicole Enesse
What to know when starting a career in tech
<https://www.youtube.com/@nicoleenesse>
- Gary Ruddell
OSINT, Threat Intel, Career
<https://www.youtube.com/@garyruddellofficial>
- Sandra - Tech & Lifestyle
Passionate cyber enthusiast sharing insights
<https://www.youtube.com/@WithSandra>
- TechTual Chatter
Learn about getting into cybersecurity, having a great career
<https://www.youtube.com/@TechTualChatter>



Cybersecurity Twitch:

- https://www.twitch.tv/Security_Live
Join for exploring, learning and comparing Information Security tools used in the industry.
- <https://www.twitch.tv/Alh4zr3d>
Stream content tends to be educational in nature and explores all things information security, with a focus on the offensive (but ethical) portions.
- https://www.twitch.tv/hack_smarter
This stream is managed by Tyler Ramsbey. Streaming hands-on hacking through TryHackMe, HackTheBox, VulnHub, and various other platforms.

Cheat Sheet: Essential Cybersecurity Resources for Career Pivots

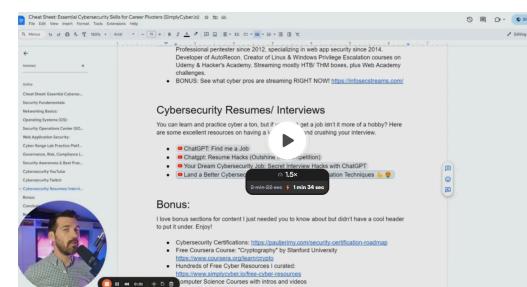
- <https://www.twitch.tv/0xTib3rius>
Professional pentester since 2012, specializing in web app security since 2014.
Developer of AutoRecon. Creator of Linux & Windows Privilege Escalation courses on Udemy & Hacker's Academy. Streaming mostly HTB/ THM boxes, plus Web Academy challenges.
- BONUS: See what cyber pros are streaming RIGHT NOW! <https://infosecstreams.com/>

Cybersecurity Resumes/ Interviews:

You can learn and practice cyber a ton, but if you can't get a job isn't it more of a hobby? Here are some excellent resources on having a killer resume and crushing your interview.

Don't be overwhelmed or confused on what to do with these links. I've got a video for that. 😊

Deeper details video on this section [Click Here](#):



- ChatGPT: Find me a Job
- Chatgpt: Resume Hacks (Outshine the Competition)
- Your Dream Cybersecurity Job: Secret Interview Hacks with ChatGPT
- Land a Better Cybersecurity Job Offer: ChatGPT Negotiation Techniques 💪\$\$\$\$

Bonus:

I love bonus sections for content I just needed you to know about but didn't have a cool header to put it under. Enjoy!

- Cybersecurity Certifications: <https://pauljeremy.com/security-certification-roadmap>
- Free Coursera Course: "Cryptography" by Stanford University <https://www.coursera.org/learn/crypto>
- Hundreds of Free Cyber Resources I curated: <https://www.simplycyber.io/free-cyber-resources>
- Computer Science Courses with intros and videos <https://github.com/Developer-Y/cs-video-courses>
- Amazing Antisiphon Training <https://www.antisiphontraining.com/>
- TCM Academy Training <https://academy.tcm-sec.com/>

Conclusion: Your Cybersecurity Journey Begins Now!

Congratulations on taking the first step towards your exciting new career in cybersecurity! This cheat sheet has equipped you with valuable resources to navigate your path with confidence.

Remember, the journey is just beginning. Stay curious, keep learning, and never stop growing your skillset.

Ready to take your next step?

Connect with me on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/geraldauger>

I post content all the time to help people achieve their cyber career goals and how I can help you achieve them.

Join the community: There is a thriving community at the Simply Cyber Discord server where you can engage in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. <https://simplycyber.io/discord>

Remember, you've got this! ❤️

-Gerry