

Commentary on Professional Networking

What is Networking?

Professional networking is the strategic practice of building and maintaining relationships with individuals within your industry or related fields to create mutually beneficial connections. It involves establishing genuine relationships that can lead to career opportunities, knowledge sharing, mentorship, and collaborative partnerships. Networking is not simply collecting contacts, but rather cultivating meaningful professional relationships that provide value to all parties involved.

Why Networking is Important

Networking serves as a cornerstone of career development and professional growth. In today's competitive job market, studies show that up to 80% of jobs are never publicly advertised, making networking essential for accessing hidden opportunities. Through networking, professionals can gain insider knowledge about industry trends, company cultures, and upcoming positions before they become available to the general public.

Beyond job opportunities, networking facilitates knowledge transfer and skill development. Connecting with experienced professionals provides access to mentorship opportunities, industry insights, and best practices that can accelerate career progression. Networking also builds your professional reputation and personal brand, making you more visible within your industry and establishing you as a knowledgeable and connected professional.

Types of Networking

Online Networking

Digital networking has become increasingly important, with platforms like LinkedIn, Twitter, and industry-specific forums serving as primary networking tools. Online networking allows for global connections, continuous engagement, and the ability to showcase expertise through content sharing and thought leadership. Professional online communities, webinars, and

virtual conferences have expanded networking possibilities beyond geographical limitations.

In-Person Networking

Traditional face-to-face networking remains valuable for building deeper, more personal connections. Industry conferences, professional association meetings, alumni events, and local meetups provide opportunities for meaningful conversations and relationship building. In-person networking often leads to stronger, more memorable connections due to the personal interaction element.

Academic Networking

Educational institutions provide natural networking environments through classmates, professors, alumni networks, and academic conferences. These relationships often span entire careers and can be particularly valuable as they combine personal and professional connections. Academic networking also includes research collaborations and participation in scholarly activities.

Industry-Specific Networking

Sector-focused networking involves connecting with professionals within specific industries or functional areas. This type of networking is particularly valuable for staying current with industry trends, regulations, and opportunities. Professional associations, trade shows, and industry publications serve as key networking vehicles.

How I Participate in Networking

As a cybersecurity professional, I actively engage in various networking activities to build my professional presence and stay connected with industry developments. My participation in GITEX Africa 2025 in Marrakech exemplifies my commitment to industry networking, where I engaged with global technology leaders, cybersecurity professionals, and fellow students to exchange ideas and explore collaboration opportunities.

Through my role as a student representative at ENSET Mohammedia, I have developed strong networking skills by coordinating with faculty members, external organizers, and prospective students. This experience has taught me the importance of building relationships across different stakeholder groups and maintaining professional connections over time.

I maintain an active presence on professional platforms like LinkedIn, where I connect with industry professionals, share insights about cybersecurity trends, and engage with relevant content. My academic projects and internships have also provided networking opportunities with professionals at organizations like Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Mohammed VI and the Moroccan Customs & Excise Administration.

Additionally, I leverage my certification programs from Cisco, Huawei, and RedHat as networking opportunities, connecting with fellow certified professionals and participating in related community discussions and events.

Visual Documentation



This photo highlights a key moment in my professional networking journey at GITEX Africa 2025 in Marrakech. I am pictured here alongside professors

who have played a significant role in shaping my understanding of cybersecurity and technology. This photo underscores the importance of building relationships not only with industry peers but also with professors and mentors who guide us and connect us to future opportunities. It reflects how education and networking come together to form a strong foundation for a successful career.



This photo, taken in front of the Cisco stand, shows me exploring innovations from a leading technology company. It highlights my proactive approach to networking, not just staying within my own circle but also extending my reach to connect with key players in the industry. Visiting the Cisco booth provided a valuable opportunity to learn directly from experts, discover new solutions, and appreciate the latest trends shaping the future of technology and cybersecurity.

Together, these photos encapsulate my journey from academia into the professional world, a path paved by networking, curiosity, and a willingness to connect and learn from a community of innovators.