

THE ULTIMATE BEGINNER

Cybersecurity

Roadmap Guide



Step One

Find your cyber niche



Step Two

Take relevant course(s)



Step Three

Get your certification



Step Four

Work on technical projects



Step Five

Resume revamp



Step Six

LinkedIn revamp



Step Seven

Job applications (the right way)



Step Eight

Interview prep & negotiation

(Some links in this guide are affiliate links but are all resources I've personally vetted or used myself.)

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SOC Analyst (Cyber Defense Analyst)

A Security Operations Center (SOC) analyst is responsible for monitoring and analyzing an organization's cybersecurity infrastructure to detect and respond to security incidents.

BEST PROGRAMS/COURSES:

- ☐ [Hack The Box Certified Defensive Security Analyst \(CDSA\)](#)
- ☐ [Springboard Cyber Security Bootcamp \(w/ Job Guarantee if qualified\)](#)
- ☐ [INE CCNA Certification Pathway](#)

BEST CERTS:

- ☐ [Google Cybersecurity Professional Certificate](#)
- ☐ [CompTIA Security+ Certification](#)
- ☐ [Microsoft Cybersecurity Analyst Certificate](#)

MY RELEVANT VIDEOS:

- ☐ [How to Become an SOC Analyst](#)
- ☐ [Top 5 Beginner Cybersecurity Projects](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:

- ☐ [Professor Messer's CompTIA Security+ Course](#)
- ☐ [OpenSecurityTraining](#)

Junior Pentester (Ethical Hacker)

A junior penetration tester is an entry-level professional who assesses the security of computer systems and networks by identifying and exploiting vulnerabilities to help organizations strengthen their overall cybersecurity.

BEST PROGRAMS/COURSES:

- ☐ [INE Pentest Student Pathway](#)
- ☐ [Hack The Box Academy](#)
- ☐ [TryHackMe Training](#)

BEST CERTS:

- ☐ [INE eJPT Cert](#)
- ☐ [CompTIA Security+ Certification](#)

MY RELEVANT VIDEOS:

- ☐ [How to Get Started with Pentesting](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:

- ☐ [freeCodeCamp Pentesting Training](#)

Compliance Analyst (GRC)

A Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) analyst is responsible for ensuring that an organization's policies, procedures, and processes align with regulatory requirements, managing risks, and maintaining compliance across various areas of the business.

BEST PROGRAMS/COURSES:

☐ [Techpreneur's Club \(Become a GRC Analyst from 0 to 100\)](#)

BEST CERTS:

☐ [OCEG GRC Professional Certification](#)

☐ [CompTIA Security+ Certification](#)

MY RELEVANT VIDEOS:

☐ [Techpreneur's Club Program Review](#)

☐ [What Does an IT Auditor Do?](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:

☐ [Free GRC Hub Resources](#)

My Cybersecurity Resources

Working in cybersecurity provides a great career path with high salaries, great job security, and limitless learning opportunities to niche down into specific areas in security as you grow in your career.

CYBERSECURITY PREP 101

- ☐ [My Interview Prep Bundle](#)
- ☐ [My Cybersecurity Resume + Cover Letter Template](#)
- ☐ [Top 5 Beginner Cybersecurity Projects](#)
- ☐ [Cybersecurity VS Software Engineer](#)

MY CAREER GUIDES:

- ☐ [Web Pentester Career Bundle](#)
- ☐ [Security Engineer Career Bundle](#)
- ☐ [SOC Analyst Career Bundle](#)
- ☐ [Security Analyst Career Bundle](#)

MY CYBERSECURITY COURSE:

- ☐ [How to Get Your First Job in Cybersecurity](#)

MY RECOMMENDED JOB SITES:

- ☐ [BuiltIn](#)
- ☐ [Dice.com](#)
- ☐ [Startup.Jobs](#)
- ☐ [LinkedIn Jobs](#)
- ☐ [Cybersecurity Tech Faves on Amazon](#)

Job Applications, LinkedIn, & Resumes

JOB APPLICATION TIPS

- Avoid the quick “easy-applies” and try to always apply on the official job site if possible. This will help your resume actually stand out rather than getting lost in the thousands of applicants in easy-apply apps.
- Apply on job sites that have quality job listings. The popular ones can sometimes be oversaturated so try my recommended job sites linked in the previous page.
- Make sure your resume has at least 3 of the keywords or skills the job listing is asking for. If you don’t have those skills yet, try to find courses or free online walkthroughs to at least get a personal project using that tool onto your resume.

RESUME TIPS

- Put your best foot forward: for you this could be your technical projects, past experience, certs, or technical skills. Make sure your “resume highlight” is at the top given the fact that most recruiters only look at a resume for a short amount of time. You want to catch their attention ASAP.
- Make sure your resume bullet points shows the **impact** of the work you did, not just the “what”. Add numbers, stats, or other proof of impact into the bullet point.
- I have videos on my channel linked in the footer on building a cybersecurity resume from scratch for a better deep dive.

LINKEDIN TIPS

- You may not be a poster on LinkedIn, but the best way to get the word out that you’re looking for a job is to talk about it. If sharing a post about your experience, the type of role you’re looking for, and what you bring to the table does that, then you should definitely be considering it. You’d be surprised how many people are willing to reach out and share a job listing they saw or a referral to their company. Put yourself out there and use the power of your network.
- Follow pages or accounts that either help you find new job listings or learn about the skills/roles companies are hiring for.
- Turn on job alerts on LinkedIn for the specific roles you’re interested in for new job posts.

CERTIFICATION ROADMAP

1

GOOGLE CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

A popular cert created by Google, hosted by Coursera. Made for *pure* beginners, also great to get some cyber projects on your resume. If you already have cybersecurity foundations or experience, you can skip straight to taking the CompTIA Security+ instead.

2

COMPTIA SECURITY+

The OG beginner cybersecurity certification, which also happens to be great for HR with better chances to get you through to the interview stage. If you don't get any other cert, **AT LEAST GET YOUR CompTIA Sec+.**

3

FOR DEFENSIVE SECURITY: HACK THE BOX CDSA CERT

A relatively new HTB defensive security cert, goes very in-depth into incident response, Windows OS logs, SIEMs, etc. I'd recommend getting a Silver Annual subscription to get the most out of the program + exam.

4

FOR OFFENSIVE SECURITY: INE EJPT CERT

One of the more popular entry level EH certs, not without its haters, but likely still a better option than the CompTIA Pentest+. This plus CTF and other offensive security experience (HTB, TryHackMe) would be a good start for junior roles.

5

FOR COMPLIANCE/GRC: OCEG GRCP CERT

The GRP Professional certification created by OCEG is one of the most entry-level GRC certs you can get in this niche, without needing any prior years of experience as a pre-req.

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