

Red Team Career Tips #1

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Develop your Soft Skills #1

- Network with other professionals, participate in events, and foster healthy interactions within the community.
- Learn to manage your time, especially in tasks that require deep concentration or urgency.
- Improve your communication skills, particularly in selling your ideas, metrics, and relevant results from your area, making activities understandable for your business.
- Instead of dwelling on the conflict itself, a red team professional with strong conflict resolution skills is solution-oriented. This involves actively seeking ways to address the root causes of conflicts, implementing effective strategies, and ensuring the team's focus remains on its primary objectives.
- A differentiator for a good professional is understanding business and organizational structure, this certainly puts him ahead even when making decisions;

Develop your Hard Skills #2

- Automation and scripting skills are essential for streamlining the execution of repetitive tasks during conflict simulations. This hard skill enables Red Team professionals to focus on complex aspects of conflict resolution by automating routine processes, enhancing efficiency, and reducing the likelihood of human error;
- Mastery in crafting realistic and diverse cyber attack scenarios is essential. This skill includes developing scenarios that challenge the security infrastructure;
- Proficiency in social engineering techniques is crucial for Red Teamers. This involves the ability to craft convincing phishing emails, conduct pretexting, and manipulate human behavior to gain unauthorized access. Social engineering tradecraft enhances the team's capability to identify and resolve conflicts arising from human vulnerabilities;

Take the necessary precautions to avoid burnout #3

- Set clear boundaries between work and personal life. Avoid taking work home and, if possible, completely disconnect during your time off;
- Prioritize tasks, set realistic goals, and use effective time management techniques. Make sure to balance your workload to avoid overload;
- Stay up to date with the latest cybersecurity trends and technologies, but do so in a balanced way. Invest time in professional development, but avoid overwhelming yourself with too much learning;
- Regular exercise and a healthy diet can have a significant impact on reducing stress. Make sure you dedicate time to taking care of your body;
- If you are facing difficulties, do not hesitate to share this with your colleagues or supervisor. Open communication can lead to collaborative solutions. Of course, unfortunately the professionals colleagues has many self-centered professionals, without humility and some who are not very trustworthy, so always try to align with management and in critical cases Human Resources can try to support you together with your manager;
- Be aware of signs of burnout, such as constant exhaustion, irritability, lack of motivation and sleep problems. If you identify these signs, take immediate action to seek support;

Invest in your learning #4

- Investing in certifications, courses and other forms of learning is very important, but always align this with your needs, your financial condition and current career status. There is no point in wanting to obtain certifications without first analyzing each of the factors mentioned above, especially career timing;
- Analyze market needs, especially regarding academic training and certifications required to work in consultancies or corporate companies;
- Develop your skills in laboratories or by participating in exercises or events that promote a CTF or a Cyber Range, as it will be one of the ways to get your hands dirty before even having corporate experience;
- If you don't have money at the moment, focus on free content, participate in affordable events, participate in gamified cybersecurity platforms and share your results within your network;

Learn to save money #5

- Learn to manage your salary, never spend more than you earn and be sure to save money for your future;
- Establish a budget that details your monthly expenses, including housing, food, transportation, bills and personal expenses. This will help you get a clear picture of where your money is going and where you can save;
- Set short, medium and long-term financial goals. It could be creating an emergency fund, paying off debts or saving for specific goals, such as purchasing a certification, obtaining a property or even some equipment or travel;
- Set aside a portion of your salary for an emergency fund. This should cover at least three to six months of basic expenses and serve as a safety net in case of unforeseen events, such as job loss or unexpected medical expenses;
- Regularly evaluate and compare the costs of recurring services, such as insurance, cell phone plans, and streaming subscriptions. Sometimes you can find cheaper options or negotiate rates;
- Invest in your professional development. Stay up to date with the latest trends in cybersecurity, take relevant courses and certifications that can increase your value in the job market;

Developing your professional leadership #6

- The cybersecurity landscape is dynamic. Cultivate an adaptive mindset and encourage innovation within your team. Embrace new technologies and methodologies that can improve the effectiveness of red team operations;
- Cultivate relationships with professionals in the cybersecurity community. Networking provides opportunities for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and staying informed about industry trends;
- If you want to become a Red Team Leader, know that you won't just be coding exploits or running adversarial campaigns. But guiding the team so that all this is accomplished and presenting the results to senior management and for this, not everything will be limited to Hacking and Rock and Roll, but also politics and business, be prepared and there is no certification that will help you with this aspect;

Final tips for those just starting out #7

- The cybersecurity area is in high demand, but companies are looking for prepared professionals, remember that the day-to-day life of a professional is completely different from what you see in CTF, gamification platforms and even in lectures out there. In practice, everything comes down to money and the company that spends the least on security and has maximum results, which is why professionals need to be prepared to deal with precarious scenarios, so there is no magic pill that many people promise, the result will depend of factors such as:
 - Professional behavior, something that some learn the wrong way;
 - Knowledge acquired and this ranges from courses, academic experiences and even certifications you have;
 - How do you sell yourself to the market, are you really a senior professional? It is worth mentioning that each company has its own way of evaluating the seniority of a professional, so always asking for feedback from colleagues who want your growth is important, after all, there are many managers who should not be managers and many specialists who should be seniors;
 - What do you show your network regarding your professional development? It's not enough to just have networking, after all, that's not all that will guarantee you a job. And something I see in professionals I've interviewed, when they ask about the day-to-day life of a red team or how they would present the red team area within an organization, they don't necessarily know how to explain it. Furthermore, many want to enter the war without knowing how to shoot or even provide proper support;
 - The market is demanding and that's a fact, but don't just stick to one direction. Furthermore, if you are in the field for the money, I'm sorry, but without investment in training and study time, it won't make sense to pay well to a professional who can't explain the numbers he generates, as he doesn't even know what he is making, just replicating the cake recipes he learned there;
 - Use all the resources to your advantage, whether they are free, paid or even shared, every time you have with a professional who is willing to advise you, or a course that was released for free and even opportunities to show your skills, go without fear of making mistakes or failing, as it is through failure and successes that experience and a solid career are built;

Conclusion

If you are coming by alternative means, I recommend accessing my LinkedIn, you can find lists of professionals you should follow and even content that can help you.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/joas-antonio-dos-santos>