



INFORMATION SECURITY +  
ADVISORY SERVICES CONSULTING

Creating Your Career Path in Information Security

# Agenda

- Introductions
- Understanding common roles
- Picking your path
- Where to gain knowledge
- How to present yourself
- Q & A's

# Adam Compton

Senior Security Consultant

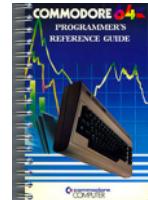
Over my life, I have been a programmer, researcher, instructor, professional pen tester, father, husband, farmer, hillbilly.

I have nearly two decades of experience in the Information Security field performing programming, network security, incident response, security assessment, and penetration testing.



# How did Adam get here?

- I got a computer (Commodore 64) at an early age.
- I learned the basics of computer programming early in life.
- I went to University of Kentucky for Computer Science.
- I got a Cooperative Education/Internship opportunity with a company (Department of Defense).
- I went to the University of California at Davis for Computer Security.
- I finally got an official penetration testing position.
- Even after a few different companies, I am still doing pentesting, now for TrustedSec.



**Your path may be VERY different than mine...  
and that is okay.**



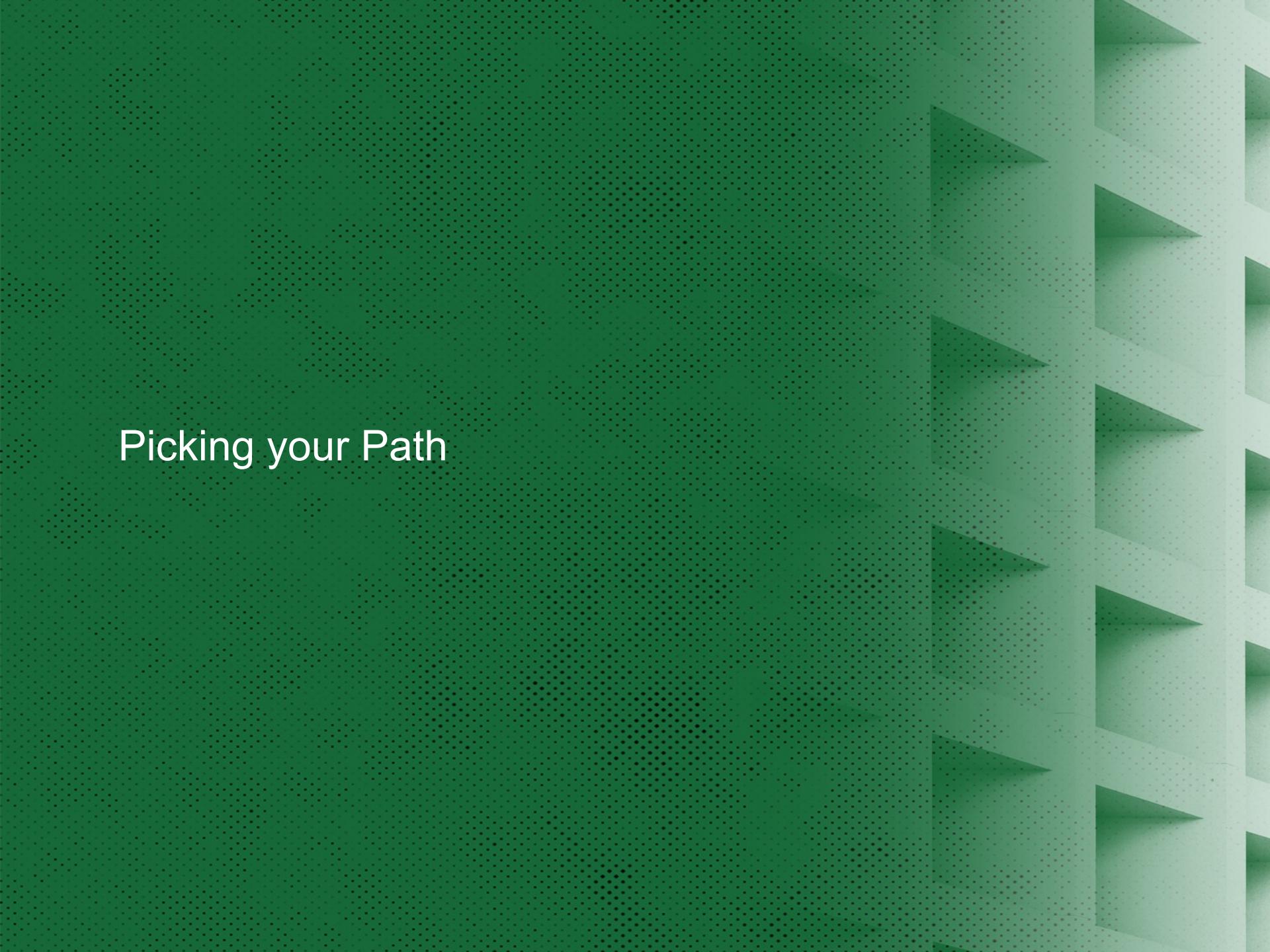
# Information Security Careers



# Information Security (InfoSec) Careers

- There is not just 1.
- 2 Basic Types
  - Attacker/Red Team
  - Defender/Blue Team
- Incident Response and Forensics
  - Malware Analysis
- But that is just the surface.
  - Red Team, Blue Team, Pentesting, Auditor, Developer, ...





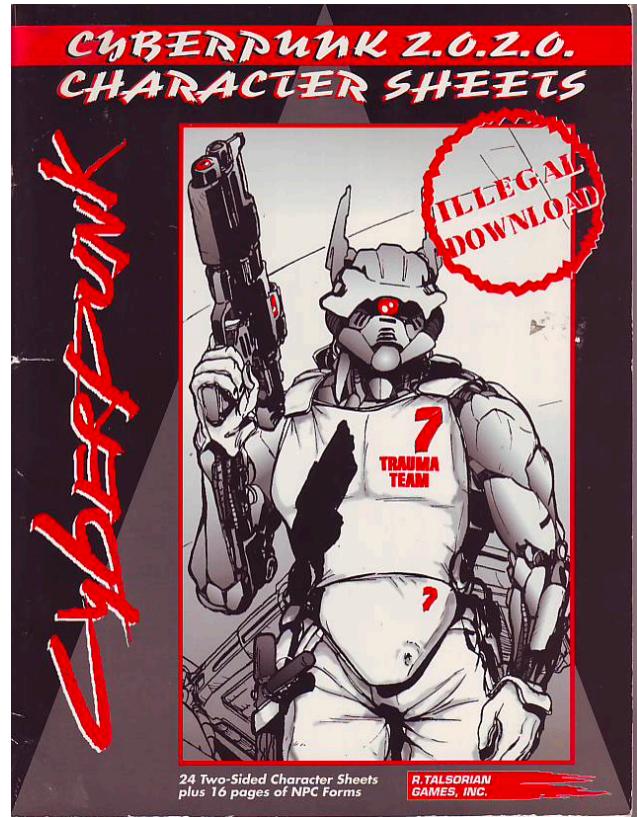
Picking your Path

# Common questions I get asked...

- How do I get to be a hacker?
- What are companies looking for in employees?
- How do I get a job that requires experience if I need a job to get experience?
- Do I need a college degree?
- How can I show people what I know, legally?
- What certifications do I need?
- Should I stay general or specialize?
- Do I need to know how to program?
- Do I need to learn <insert OS/hardware/topic/etc..>?

# What are companies looking for?

- Type 1 characteristics
  - Hard worker
  - Analytical
  - Self motivated
  - Problem solver
- Type 2 characteristics
  - Have experience
  - Knowledgeable
  - Well spoken/written
  - \*\*\*Certifications\*\*\*



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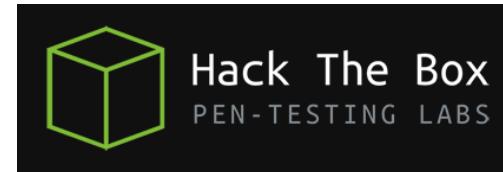
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- **Participate in Capture the Flag (CTF)/Hack competitions**



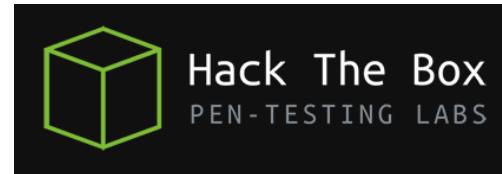
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- Bug Bounties



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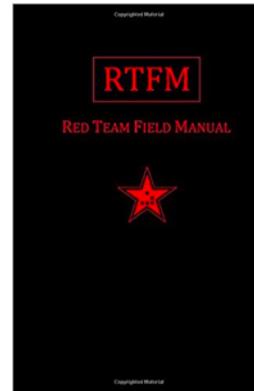
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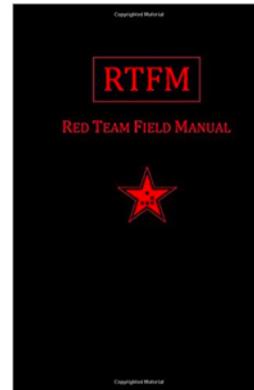
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- **Learn by doing**



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  - **\*\*\*Prepare a well written resume\*\*\***
  - **\*\*\*Perform mock interviews\*\*\***



# Certifications

- Are they required?
- Are they needed?
- Which ones should I get?



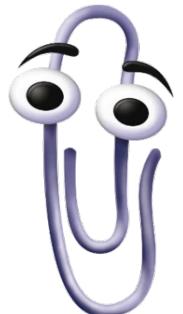
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  - **Maybe.**
  - Depends on the company and the position



In Closing...

# Final Thoughts

- You decide your future.
- There is not 1 InfoSec job for everyone.
- Everyone has their own experiences and talents.
- Find what you enjoy and are good at.
- Always keep learning and expanding your knowledge base.

# Contact

## Adam L. Compton



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[www.hillbillystorytime.com](http://www.hillbillystorytime.com)



[www.youtube.com/hillbillstorytime](http://www.youtube.com/hillbillstorytime)



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