

# Top Five Reasons to Get Cyber Certified

# The Value of Cybersecurity Certifications

Do certifications matter? There is a lot of debate about the legitimacy of certifications, if they are worth the time and cost, and how they compare to other attributes including years of experience or hands-on skills. The ultimate answer: yes, they matter. Here are the top 5 reasons to get that cert.

### 1. Validation of skills and capabilities

2

At a minimum, earning your certification(s) validates your commitment to a career in cybersecurity. Regardless of whether you take a course or you study on your own, there is a significant time commitment in studying for and taking a certification exam. Achievement of a certification showcases a level of commitment, diligence, and aptitude giving you credibility as a cybersecurity practitioner. All else being equal, the candidate with the certification is going to win-out.

#### 2. Screening mechanism for HR

Let's face it, HR and recruiting departments are busy and recruiters are rarely well-versed in cybersecurity job competencies. These professionals aren't expected to be experts in all the roles they fill but they are expert in filling roles. According to Burning Glass, more than 33% of cybersecurity job postings require a cert. If a role has a required or even an optional certification requirement, then that busy HR professional is activating a key word search that includes those magic certification letters – CISSP, CEH, CISM, etc. If you want to accelerate your visibility to recruiters, then earning certifications is the way to go.

# 3. DOD Job requirement 8570/8140

There are many jobs that require certifications with the most obvious being government employees who perform cybersecurity functions. DoDD 8140 was signed in 2015 and serves to establish policies and assign responsibilities for managing the Department of Defense's cybersecurity workforce. The DoD still relies on the manual for the original directive, DoDD 8570, which outlines the baseline qualification requirements for information security jobs. Until the updated manual for 8140 is developed and approved 8570 will continue to be used. So what does this really mean? If you want to work for the government, then certification is required. Do not pass go. Do not collect government dollars until you earn your certification.

# 4. More money.

Bonuses. Salary increases. Often certification achievement comes with a significant bump in pay just for earning the certification. According to its 2016 survey of 14,000 security practitioners globally, (ISC)<sup>2</sup>, the certification body behind the CISSP, reported that the average annual salary among the security professionals surveyed in 2016 was \$97,778. Non-member security practitioners reported an average annual salary of \$76,363. This illustrates a nearly \$20,000 difference as a benefit to being certified.

### 5. Career advancement

Not only do certifications potentially set you up for career advancement in your current cybersecurity position, but obtaining a new one could help qualify you for adjacent and more advanced cybersecurity roles within your company or organization. Career advancement is far more available with the right combination of letters next to your name. It's also important to remember the education that comes with preparing for certifications. The act of preparing for and passing certification exams

# Do you need another reason to get certified?

speaks volumes to current and future employers.

Credibility. Career advancement opportunities. More money. There is no question that there is value in earning and maintaining certifications; however, certification alone is not the final answer. At the end of the day, the combination of certification and experience will benefit not just a security practitioner, but also the industry at large. Invest in your cybersecurity professional portfolio and earn your certifications.





# **Cybersecurity Certification Training**

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#### Get in touch

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