Learn the 7 Reasons Why Cyber Certifications Are Worth It

Description

Many people wonder if cybersecurity certifications are worth the time and money they cost. They are!

Several arguments can be made against certifications, especially given a large number of certifications available today and the fact that many have risen and fallen in popularity over time. Nonetheless, they remain an appealing option for an entry-level cybersecurity professional or a career changer looking to enter the field. Is it worthwhile to pursue cybersecurity certifications? If you use cybersecurity certifications to supplement other qualifications on your resume, they are well worth the effort. Employers will assume that your knowledge is not based on experience if you only have certifications on your resume.

To put it another way, certifications are worthwhile, but they aren't the only thing that will demand your

time and attention as you pursue a cybersecurity career.

The following are seven reasons to obtain a cyber certification:

Unfortunately, many people who are new to cybersecurity believe that certifications are solely to earn money. While this is true in some cases, certifications can also provide several other benefits to your career.

Reason #1: Certifications can help you stand out

Certifications can help you stand out from the crowd when it comes to competing for the same job. I've seen a few instances where a candidate with a certification or multiple certifications beat out a similarly qualified but non-certified candidate solely based on the certification. In these cases, the certification was the deciding factor for the employer. I always advise college students to get certification because it gives them a competitive advantage over other college graduates.

Reason #2: Certifications demonstrate achievement and perseverance

Everyone knows that earning a certification takes time and effort, so having one demonstrates your dedication to your profession and knowledge base. This is especially true as you begin your career and have fewer resources to rely on or discuss with potential employers. Having a certification demonstrates that you are dedicated to your chosen field.

Reason #3: They are highly valued by many employers.

Although certifications do not sway all employers, they do impress a large number of them. The Department of Defense has established baseline certifications for many security and intelligence positions, such as the CompTIA Security+. Some employers prefer certifications over a college diploma, so having one can help you stand out.

Reason #4: Having a certification can keep your boss on their toes

Several times throughout my career, I've followed the playbook of earning certification on my own time and with my own money without informing my employer. Instead, I would send them the email confirmation or inform them verbally once I had received the certification (or hang it on my office wall without saying anything.) You can see the wheels turning in these scenarios as they wonder when you finished the certification, why you're improving yourself, and what your intentions are.

Whether in the cybersecurity field or not, obtaining certification while working can cause your employer to notice you. This can provide you with leverage in many cases.

Reason #5: You can use certifications to negotiate a raise or promotion

Money must become a factor in any career decision at some point, and here it is. Certifications can help a cybersecurity professional gain negotiating leverage for a raise or promotion. This is why so many certification providers try to link their credentials to pay scales. Of course, there are many other factors to consider when determining whether or not a certification can lead to a raise. Still, it may be worthwhile to try to use certification as a bargaining chip for better pay.

Reason #6: If you don't have one, you'll wish you did

This, in my opinion, is the most crucial benefit of all. Wouldn't having the certification be preferable to not having it? Consider it for a moment. Is there anyone who doesn't have a degree who wouldn't use a magic wand to get one if they could? Is there any IT professional who doesn't want an alphabet of certifications after their name? We all like qualifiers, but many of us lack the motivation to pursue them, making them all the more valuable to those of us who do.

Reason #7: Certifications are often given more weight by employers than training programs

Numerous online and in-person training programs are available, and thousands of people have invested thousands of dollars in them. Unfortunately, many of these training programs are paper mills or brain dumps, in which the student isn't given enough time to learn anything and isn't given a chance to try things out for themselves. The problem is that many of these programs are geared toward certification preparation, even though many students fail to pass the exam at the end of the course. Employers frequently regard certification as a higher validation of knowledge than simply completing some training.

What is the most effective method of preparing for a certification?

It's essential to use a variety of sources when studying for cybersecurity certifications, as well. Any given textbook, class, or video course will likely represent the provider's interpretation of the most effective way to prepare you for the exam. Unfortunately, there is no single resource that will provide you with everything you require for guaranteed success or cover all of the exam topics in the most effective manner.

Consider the following approach for cybersecurity certification preparation: first, enroll in a course or video course, and then supplement your training with textbook study and hands-on practice. A large number of certification books are available at public libraries for checkout. Examine those resources and consider using them to supplement the coursework you've already completed. Next, prepare for the actual exam by taking several practice exams after becoming familiar with the material. The best practice exam options go into great detail about both the correct and incorrect answers and how to find them. Considering that many certification exams have fifty or more exam questions, you'll want to work through several hundred practice questions to prepare and ensure you've seen a sufficient number of different question topics and question variations. Keep in mind that any questions on the exam will be written from the perspective of how the test writer perceives the content, not necessarily from the perspective of what is done in any particular operational setting. That is to say; it is best to approach the exam concepts from the perspective of the test author.

When is the best time to take a certification exam?

I've discovered that evaluating whether or not you know the material well enough to teach it to others is an excellent way to determine whether or not you're ready to sit for a certification exam. Suppose you can fully explain the certification material to someone unfamiliar with the content. In that case, this is a good indication that you are familiar with the material and are prepared to answer any questions that may be asked on the certification exam. Consider teaching and explaining the material to a friend or family member as you near the end of your preparation for the certification exam. If you are confident

Footer Tagline

in your ability to explain it to others, you should be confident in your ability to sit for the examination.

Conclusion

Irrespective of whether you are employed in another field full-time, you can pursue a career in digital security with the assistance of online digital security courses and certifications that will allow you to achieve your goals on your own time.

Category

1. Education

Date Created
July 2021
Author
tca-admin

Footer Tagline