

IT & Cybersecurity Career Handout

Why Choose IT & Cybersecurity?

Technology is everywhere—from phones and games to hospitals and banks. IT and cybersecurity professionals keep systems running and protect data from hackers. These careers are exciting, in-demand, and well-paid.

Career Paths

- IT Support Specialist
- Network Administrator
- Cybersecurity Analyst
- Ethical Hacker
- Cloud Engineer
- Security Consultant

Certifications to Explore

- CompTIA IT Fundamentals (ITF+)
- CompTIA A+
- Cisco Certified Support Technician (CCST)
- CompTIA Security+
- Google IT Support Certificate

Cool Tools to Try

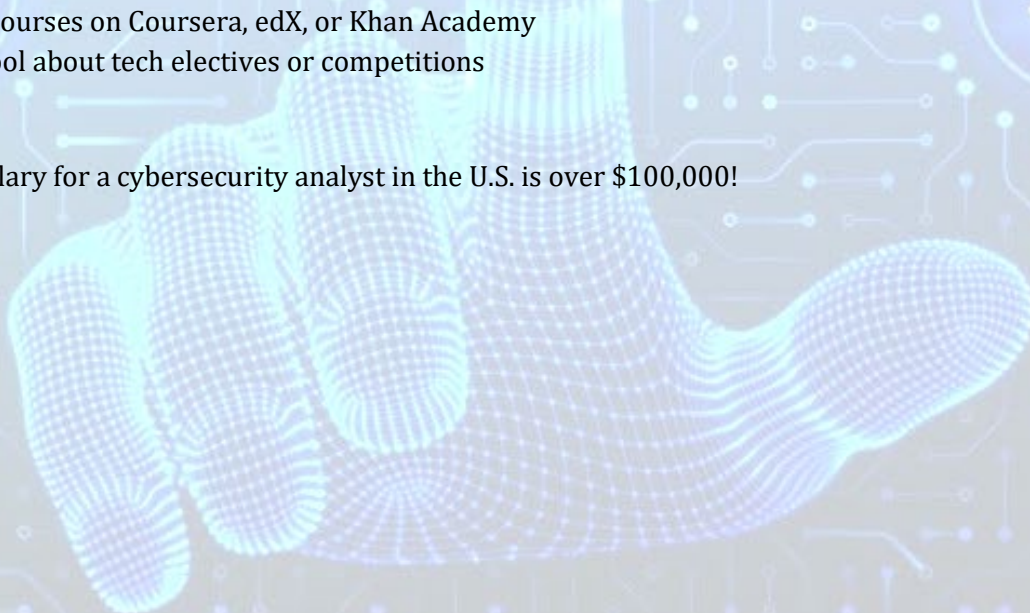
- TryHackMe.com (Cybersecurity Labs)
- Codecademy.com (Coding)
- Wireshark (Network Analysis)
- VirtualBox (Virtual Machines)

How to Get Started

- Join a coding or cybersecurity club
- Watch YouTube tutorials (e.g., NetworkChuck, Professor Messer)
- Explore free courses on Coursera, edX, or Khan Academy
- Ask your school about tech electives or competitions

Fun Fact

The average salary for a cybersecurity analyst in the U.S. is over \$100,000!



Extended Resources for Further Exploration

A. Online Learning Platforms:

Codecademy: Interactive coding lessons (HTML, CSS, Python, JavaScript). Many free courses.
<https://www.codecademy.com/>

Khan Academy: Offers courses on computer science fundamentals, programming.
<https://www.khanacademy.org/computing>

Coursera / edX:

Free courses from universities and companies (look for "audit" options).

Search for "Introduction to IT," "Cybersecurity Basics."

<https://www.coursera.org/>

<https://www.edx.org/>

YouTube Channels:

Professor Messer: Excellent free CompTIA certification training videos (A+, Network+, Security+).

<https://www.professormesser.com/>

The Cyber Mentor (TCM Security): Practical cybersecurity tutorials.

<https://www.youtube.com/@TheCyberMentor>

Techquickie: Short, easy-to-understand explanations of tech topics.

<https://www.youtube.com/@Techquickie>

B. Certifications (for later consideration):

CompTIA A+: Entry-level certification for IT support.

<https://www.comptia.org/certifications/a>

CompTIA Network+: For networking fundamentals.

<https://www.comptia.org/certifications/network>

CompTIA Security+: For foundational cybersecurity knowledge.

<https://www.comptia.org/certifications/security>

C. Hands-on Practice & Community:

TryHackMe / Hack The Box Academy: Gamified platforms to learn cybersecurity skills. (Some free content, some paid).

<https://tryhackme.com/>

<https://academy.hackthebox.com/>

Local Robotics/Coding Clubs: Check with your school or local community centers.

GitHub: A platform for developers to share code and collaborate on projects. Great for seeing real-world code.

<https://github.com/>

D. Books/Reading:

"Computer Science Principles" textbooks (can often find free online resources).

"How Computers Work" by Ron White (older but a classic for understanding hardware).

Tech news websites (e.g., TechCrunch, Wired, The Verge) to stay updated.