

# The Value Of Certifications

Computing and Cybersecurity Certifications have been used to detail the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) needed for key roles in information technology and cybersecurity since the late 1980's. The primary focus of a professional certification program is to provide an independent assessment of the KSAs required for performance of an occupational role or specific work-related tasks. The certification awarded is a quality benchmark and designates that participants have demonstrated the requisite KSAs and other requirements established by the certification program provider.

## Certification Programs:

- provide hands-on learning and performance-based assessments.
- validate competencies to perform work roles.
- supply learners with portable and stackable credentials.
- ensure continued competence in an evolving field through renewal requirement.

### MORE THAN



of the employed U.S. population

holds a license or certification on top of any academic degrees they may hold.<sup>1</sup>

### COMPARED TO

beginner-level salaries in IT, the salary premium for specializations such as Security and Network Technologies is:



- 10% higher** with an intermediate certification (e.g. Security+)
- 26% higher** with an advanced certification (e.g. CISSP)
- 45%+ higher** with an expert certification (e.g. CISM)<sup>1</sup>

### IN THE U.S.

the difference between salaries of certified and noncertified IT staff is nearly **\$8,400** or **11.7%**.<sup>2</sup>



### IN THE WORKPLACE

**94%** of survey respondents reported that their certified team members brought **added value** above and beyond the cost of certification.<sup>2</sup>



### GLOBALLY

**3** is the average number of certifications IT practitioners hold.<sup>2</sup>



### ON A NATIONAL LEVEL

there are approximately **215,371 job openings** requesting certifications such as Security+, CIPP, CISSP, GIAC, CISA, and CISM as of 2018.<sup>3</sup>



### AFTER DEVELOPING NEW SKILLS

from acquiring certifications or other training, survey respondents reported a **9 to 16% pay raise**.<sup>2</sup>



<sup>1</sup> [https://www.burningglass.com/wp-content/uploads/BurningGlass\\_certifications\\_2017.pdf](https://www.burningglass.com/wp-content/uploads/BurningGlass_certifications_2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://images.globalknowledge.com/wwwimages/pdfs/2017\\_Global\\_Knowledge\\_SalaryReport.pdf](http://images.globalknowledge.com/wwwimages/pdfs/2017_Global_Knowledge_SalaryReport.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://cyberseek.org/heatmap.html>