Why should you consider a career in cybersecurity?

Key Talking Points

**Make an Impact**
Everywhere you look you will see examples of cybersecurity having an effect on everyday life. It has impacts that extend beyond the digital world and into the physical one.

**Growing Need, High Demand, and High Salaries**
CyberSeek.org indicates over 300K total cybersecurity job openings throughout the U.S. The Department of Labor predicts that information technology and cybersecurity jobs will be among the fastest-growing and highest-paying over the next decade. A national cybersecurity workforce enhances America’s national security and promotes economic prosperity. Cybersecurity workers also earn high entry-level salaries.

**Dynamic Field**
Cybersecurity evolves quickly so you will always be learning and developing new skills. There is ultimate growth potential — both in your career path and for learning opportunities.

---

**What to Expect in a Cybersecurity Career**
- Cybersecurity has something for everyone! Skills are needed from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- **You will never be bored.** New technology brings new risks. Creative problem solving takes you into uncharted areas.
- **Job flexibility and highly transferable skills.** These skills allow you to move anywhere in the world and apply to any industry sector.
- **Multiple career options** that are not just technical. Business, medical, law, defense, and intelligence all need workers skilled in cybersecurity.
- The NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework defines 7 Categories, 33 Specialty Areas, and 52 Work Roles of cybersecurity work.

**How to Prepare for a Career in Cybersecurity**
- **Learn how technologies work.** Explore the basics of administrating a computer system, and configuring, running and maintaining common applications. Learning how a network works and some basic coding are also helpful.
- **Obtain an industry-recognized credential** such as a certification, academic degree, or certificate of completion. Take some classes offered in high schools, colleges, and universities, and through training providers. Explore a wide-range of free online resources. Look for summer camps or training opportunities to expand your skills.
- **Network.** Attend a conference or hackathon. Join a Meetup, after-school club, or professional organization.
- **Get hands-on experience.** Explore internship and apprenticeship options. Participate in a cyber defense, digital forensics, or cryptography competition. Or, try a Capture the Flag or Bug Bounty program.

---

**Multiple career pathways.** Two and four-year degree programs, certifications, work-based experience, and apprenticeships are just some different career pathways that practitioners have taken to arrive in their current position.

---

**Resources for National Cybersecurity Career Awareness Week**
Visit nist.gov/nice/nccaw for more resources

---

*Pictured Left:* Sam Curry made more than six figures finding potential hacks of businesses, at 18 years of age.