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# *Becoming a* **Cybersecurity Professional**

**SDSU Global Campus Cybersecurity Bootcamp**

# What Cybersecurity Is (and Isn't)

Welcome to the world of cybersecurity, a dynamic sector that beckons individuals from all walks of life.

Cybersecurity involves safeguarding digital systems, networks, and information from diverse cyber threats. Professionals in this field utilize various strategies to detect vulnerabilities and risks, ensuring the security of the digital world.

**Your unique background, skills, and perspectives are not just valued—they are essential to the cybersecurity industry.** Whether you come from a tech-savvy background or possess expertise from other disciplines, your contribution is key to creating a defense against ever-evolving cyber risks.



The cybersecurity unemployment rate dropped to *0% in 2016* and has remained there ever since.

Source: [Cybersecurity Ventures](#)

## *What* Cybersecurity Is:

- **Protection:** Cybersecurity involves establishing measures to prevent unauthorized access to systems and data.
- **Detection:** It includes methods to identify potential threats and security breaches in real-time or after the fact.
- **Response:** Cybersecurity professionals react swiftly to security incidents, containing and mitigating the damage while recovering affected systems.
- **Education:** It involves educating employees and users about best practices.
- **Ethical Hacking:** Organizations use ethical hackers to identify vulnerabilities in their systems.



# What Cybersecurity Isn't:

- **Solely About Technology:** Human behavior, policies, and processes are integral to a secure environment.
- **One-Size-Fits-All:** Effective cybersecurity is tailored to an organization's unique needs.
- **Static:** Cybersecurity is a constantly evolving field due to the ever-changing landscape of threats, technologies, and vulnerabilities.
- **Just About Computers:** It extends beyond computers to include all networked devices, including smartphones, IoT devices, and industrial control systems.
- **Only for IT Professionals:** Collaboration across departments, including legal, management, human resources, and more, are essential.



## Blake G.

Former Bootcamp Learner



The course was jam-packed with plenty of details from a very wide range of cybersecurity topics. Great for people who have little to no experience with cybersecurity and people with moderate understanding of the subject can benefit as well."

# Decoding Cybersecurity's Past

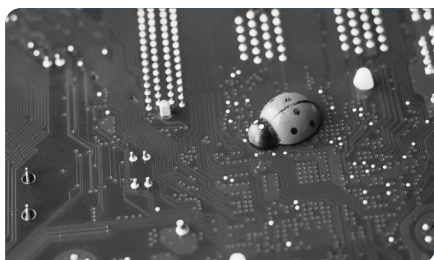
Throughout its history, cybersecurity has evolved from basic protection measures to a complex and multidimensional field, encompassing not only technical solutions but also legal, policy, and ethical considerations. The ongoing evolution of technology and threats ensures that cybersecurity remains a critical aspect of modern society.

1970s-1980s: ●

Pioneering Days

The first computer viruses and worms: Creeper and Morris Worm <

The concept of password security emerges <



● 1990s:

Rise of Malware and Antivirus

> Malware attacks lead to the first commercial antivirus software

2000s: ●

Emergence of Cybercrime

Internet growth leads to phishing, identity theft, and credit card fraud <

The need for improved security measures arises <



2010s: —●

Advanced Threats and Nation-State Attacks

State-sponsored cyber attacks ◀  
gain prominence

Sophisticated and persistent data ◀  
theft attacks appear

Ransomware attacks surge ◀



—● 2020s:

Continued Evolution

- Supply chain attacks and data breaches emerge
- Emphasis on cloud security, AI-driven threat detection
- Growing focus on regulations to address global cybersecurity challenges

## Why You Should Work in This Field

Embrace the opportunity to learn, grow, and make a meaningful impact. Cybersecurity is a broad field with many career paths. Professionals in this field form a unique community to protect critical infrastructure, assets, and the public from cyber threats.

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If you're passionate about protecting people and organizations from cyber threats, then a career in cybersecurity could be the perfect fit for you.



# Cybersecurity Is Essential to *Our Way of Life*



Cybersecurity professionals are a vital community of defenders. Their mission goes beyond safeguarding networks, data, and systems—they protect individuals, organizations, and societies from evolving cyber threats.

United by a common purpose, this community rises to challenges with unwavering determination. By decoding the hidden language of malware, dissecting the anatomy of breaches, and constructing barriers against cyberattacks, cybersecurity professionals enable society to thrive in a digital world full of smart devices.

Their commitment extends to crafting policies that preserve privacy, advocating for ethical digital practices, and empowering individuals with the knowledge to safeguard their digital footprints.



**Cyber professionals are a collective force, pooling their diverse skills and perspectives to adapt to the evolving tactics of adversaries.** As cyber threats grow in complexity, so does the unity of this community.



**Ian W.**

Former Bootcamp Learner



Going into this bootcamp, I had loved computers my whole life but never had any technical training in them. This course was a great way to get a brief introduction with a ton of different topics.”



# Cybersecurity: A Field of Opportunity

The demand for cybersecurity professionals spans every sector as the skills gap continues to broaden. Organizations continue to invest in faster, more advanced networks and technologies to manage their daily operations, creating a continuous need for trained cybersecurity professionals.

**While AI has the potential to enhance various aspects of cybersecurity, human expertise remains crucial.**

The bottom line, there are too many open positions and not enough candidates to fill them. Companies have no choice but to entice potential employees by offering higher salaries. Companies are spending more on cybersecurity, and that trend is bound to continue.

*There are 750,000+*  
open cybersecurity jobs  
needing to be filled.

Source: [Statista](#)



*\$82,000/yr is the*  
national average for entry-  
level cybersecurity earnings.

Source: [Glassdoor.com](#)

The cyber job market is projected to  
*grow 33%* between 2021 and 2031.

Reference: [CompTIA® blog](#)





# The Solution? *You.*

There are a number of ways to shrink the cybersecurity skills gap:

1 Reskilling

2 Boosting Diversity

3 Upskilling

Closing the cybersecurity skills gap is so crucial to organizations that recruiters are increasingly open to extending opportunities to candidates from a variety of backgrounds who may not follow the conventional trajectory of a cybersecurity professional. What's more, the Fortinet 2022 [Cybersecurity Skills Gap Global Research Report](#) reveals that providing training opportunities for individuals from underrepresented groups can significantly contribute to closing this skills gap.



**Whether you are transitioning from another industry, have forged a unique career path, or belong to a traditionally marginalized group in the tech sector, the field of cybersecurity offers immense opportunities to welcome your own blend of diversity.**



**Adrienne B.**

Former Bootcamp Learner

★★★★★

The teachers in this program were exceptional, providing unwavering support throughout both the ups and downs of the coursework. Beyond the classroom, they also offered valuable guidance on launching a career in cybersecurity. Their dedication to their students' education and career success was truly commendable.”



It's a pivotal time for job seekers interested in learning new skills or changing careers. As employers move away from "traditional" candidates with a four-year degree in cybersecurity or related work experience, individuals willing to take the leap and reskill have more opportunities.

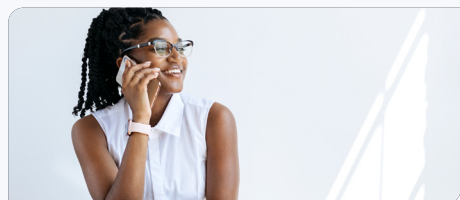
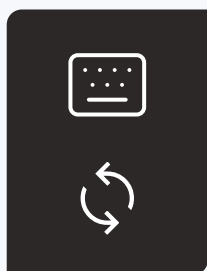
As cyber threats evolve, experienced professionals need to continually upskill in order to outsmart hackers. Existing security professionals can also close the skills gap with additional training and certifications as they seek advancement opportunities.

**This means you no longer need years of experience or a highly technical background to train as a cybersecurity professional.**



## How You Can Make the Switch

If you're looking to start or advance your career in the cyber industry, a **cybersecurity bootcamp** is an investment that offers a high return in terms of **career opportunities, skill development, and market relevance**. It's a strategic move to capitalize on the increasing demand for cybersecurity professionals and secure a promising and dynamic career in an essential field.



**Be job-ready in under a year with the SDSU Global Campus Cybersecurity Bootcamp, in partnership with ThriveDX.**

The accelerated training offers:

- Rapid Skill Development
- Practical, Hands-On Learning
- Industry-Relevant Skills
- Networking Opportunities
- Proven Career Outcomes

# Beyond Accelerated Training

Cybersecurity certifications are highly sought after in the industry. In addition to gaining hands-on training, the SDSU Global Campus Cybersecurity Bootcamp provides foundational knowledge for a number of industry-recognized cybersecurity certifications\*. Boost your credentials with the in-depth resources and learn skills you can apply to the following certification exams:

- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
- Cisco Certified CyberOps
- Associate
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> SSCP\*\*
- LPI Linux Essentials
- CompTIA® CySA+
- CompTIA® Network+
- GIAC Security Essentials
- Certified Incident Handler
- Certified Information Security Manager



There are only enough cybersecurity workers in the United States to

*fill 69% of the cybersecurity jobs that employers demand.*

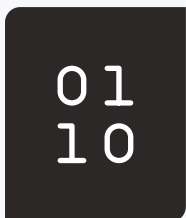
Source: [cyberseek.org](https://cyberseek.org)



As part of the Complete Program offered by the SDSU Global Campus Cybersecurity Bootcamp, you can also take the **CompTIA® Security+ Certification Exam Prep Course**, complete with a voucher for the CompTIA® Security+ certification exam itself.



Establishes the core knowledge required for any cybersecurity role



The only foundational cybersecurity certification that emphasizes hands-on practical skills



A globally recognized certification that establishes the core knowledge required in the field and provides a springboard to intermediate-level cybersecurity jobs



\*While the curriculum includes subjects covered by many industry exams, this bootcamp program solely includes an optional CompTIA® Security+ certification prep course and exam voucher. No other preparatory courses or vouchers are provided as part of the curriculum or cost of the bootcamp program and require additional costs not included in tuition.



**Contact or schedule a call with an advisor to learn more about how to launch your career in cybersecurity.**



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