

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**LONG BEACH**

COLLEGE OF PROFESSIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

*How to Pivot to a*  
**CAREER IN  
CYBERSECURITY**

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CAREER PIVOTERS  
TO CYBERSECURITY

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# CAREER PIVOTERS TO CYBERSECURITY

According to [Mohamed Atef](#), an Information Security Consultant and Certified Instructor with more than 20 years' experience in ISMS, Compliance, Penetration Testing, and IT Security, and a professional who holds a PhD, CEH, CISSP, CEI, and PMP, there is no perfect age to become an Ethical Hacker. According to Atef and all his experience in the field of cybersecurity, you can start at any time. All you need is the right training, a lot of practice in a lab, and to understand how cybersecurity and penetration testing are provided as professional services.

According to Shaun J, a Cybersecurity instructor and [Professional Penetration Tester](#), it's never too late to enter the field of cybersecurity and start a new career. He has students as young as 17 and as old as 68.

For the past few decades, people have been under the impression that in order to succeed and have guaranteed work well into retirement age, they need to hold such a profession as an accountant, doctor, lawyer, or school teacher. This model does not apply to the 21st century professional landscape. People switch jobs and careers now more than ever.

The fact is that many people in their 40s and 50s who have worked in a certain career their entire lives find themselves bored with the careers they have been busy building. They may be searching for more meaning and growth in their professional lives but not know where to start. That's where cybersecurity steps in.

The Cybersecurity field is currently growing exponentially. The global cybersecurity workforce is expected to have more than [3.5 million unfilled positions by 2021](#). This comes as no surprise with the exploding growth of the security market itself, with [IDC](#) foreseeing it as becoming a \$101 billion global opportunity by 2020.





WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW  
ABOUT CYBERSECURITY



# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CYBERSECURITY

## What Is the Average Pay for Cybersecurity\*?

Cybersecurity jobs in the United States pay an average of \$96,185 per year. That's more than twice the average national income for full-time wage and salary workers, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

\*Amounts subject to change according to the market.

## Is Cybersecurity a Good Job?

As stated before, experts project there to be more than 3.5 million unfilled positions in cybersecurity by 2021, a good sign of future employment and career stability. As we all rely more and more on digitized information and integrate technology like computers, tablets, and mobile apps into our work and home lives, the risk to our security grows larger. Considering the rate technology is advancing and integrating with our lives on almost every level, it's no surprise experts expect the demand for cybersecurity specialists to continue to grow steadily. And with that steady demand comes a stable career for those who establish themselves as specialists in cybersecurity.



## What Will I Be Doing In This Career?

There are many paths you can choose to master in the cybersecurity field. The work you will be doing will be [very important](#) and crucial to keeping our information and systems safe. As a cybersecurity specialist, you can expect to:



Improve Information Security and business continuity management.



Make sure that there are faster recovery times in case of a breach.



Improve stakeholder confidence in your Information Security arrangements.



Protect networks and data from unauthorized access.



Improve company credentials with the correct controls in place.

## What Are the Career Benefits of Cybersecurity?

There are always job openings in this field and positions are notorious for their [high salaries](#). Plus, there are amazing opportunities for career growth, travel, and international work as there are cybersecurity jobs on almost every continent.

There are also many companies in the US like Lockheed Martin in Orlando, Risk Management Solutions and Microsoft in New York, and Symantec in Los Angeles, alongside a plethora of positions all over the country. All one needs to do is simply click on [Glassdoor](#) and [Indeed](#) to find tons of cybersecurity positions available across a variety of industries. Using [LinkedIn Jobs](#) is also a great way of searching for cybersecurity jobs.



WHY CHANGING CAREERS  
IN YOUR 40s AND 50s

IS A GREAT IDEA



# WHY CHANGING CAREERS IN YOUR 40s AND 50s IS A GREAT IDEA

## Taking Control

It's really important to have control over your career. Ideally, everyone would like to be able to write their own paycheck at the end of the month. This option isn't available to most of us, but we can at least be in control of a career where we can grow, move upwards and apply all our work experience. You may be in a position at work where they are recruiting more and more young people and phasing out older staff members. Try your best to never be in a position where you may find yourself unemployed.

Cybersecurity professionals are rare and sought after by employers no matter what their age or prior professional background. Getting trained and certified in the field can give you the power to take control of your career and move forward professionally without worrying about being phased out.



*All growth starts at the end of your  
comfort zone.”* Tony Robbins





## How Good Are the Benefits of Your Current Career?

Are you in your career simply because it is comfortable? You know all your co-workers, the work that will be expected of you for the day, and what your salary will be at the end of the month. You may even get a bonus at the end of the year and get regularly promoted every 2-4 years. Everything is just...so comfortable. But is comfort always a good thing? According to self-growth guru Tony Robbins, "All growth starts at the end of your comfort zone."

## Listen To Your Intuition & Don't Ignore The Signals

Do you feel that your once exciting career has slowed down? Do you feel you are underappreciated by your managers? Are salary increases less common or less generous? Are you not finding a spark in your every-day work life? Do you find your work has become more of a chore or finding it hard to get out of bed every morning? It may be time for a major change.



## Find Your Value in the Bigger Picture

The problem with working at one place or in one career your whole life may leave you thinking that you have no other options. You may feel that you only have one set of skills pertinent to one kind of job. The company may be so familiar to you that you are scared to venture out into the big world and see what is out there.

Venturing out allows you to reassess your value in the professional world and boost your confidence by exploring the fact that your professional talents and skills can be applied in many areas, and your contribution and service appreciated by others. Cybersecurity is a field that thrives most on a workforce built of people from a variety of professional backgrounds who can bring a plethora of skill sets to the industry.

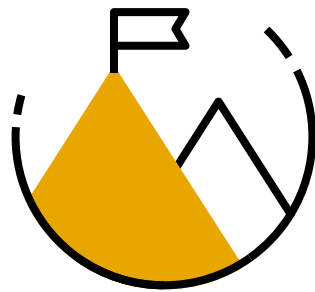
## The Freshness of Something New

This is the fun part. You can leave your old career behind and take on an entirely new professional life when you get certified as a cybersecurity professional. Each day will present you with new problems to tackle, new challenges, and new people. As time moves on you will be surprised and elated by how much you will be able to take on and succeed, and how much of an asset to your organization you will be!



*Venturing out allows you to reassess your value in the professional world and boost your confidence."*





THE STEPS YOU NEED TO MAKE  
THE MOVE INTO  
CYBERSECURITY



# THE STEPS YOU NEED TO MAKE THE MOVE INTO CYBERSECURITY

01

## Study with a Good Cybersecurity Program

This first step is pretty obvious. If you are going to do a 180 and completely change your career, you need to be “jacked” for the job. A prestigious cybersecurity qualification and certification training program will get you there. The first step is finding the best cybersecurity program for you. To give yourself the most opportunity in the field, it's a great idea to find a program that offers everything you need to get into the field of cybersecurity. If you work during the day, enroll in a program that offers flexible times that can work around your schedule.

Cybersecurity programs like the **Cybersecurity Professional Certificate Program** at California State University Long Beach provide all the education and hands-on training you need to “hack” your way into the field of cybersecurity. To learn more about the California State University Long Beach Cybersecurity Professional Certificate Program, visit our [website](#).

02

## Pivot When You Are at Your Professional Peak

The best time to pivot careers is when you're at your peak. Why? When you're at the top of your game, you have the confidence and energy you need to take the next step in your professional career and make something new of it. You will be in good spirits and ready to take on new challenges.

03

## Move for Positive Reasons

Leaving and pivoting careers is a huge milestone in your life. Make it a rule to carefully plan and go for the cybersecurity career you want and not just jump at anything to get away from your current position.



04

## Follow Social Media

Know how to operate your social media tools and make them work to your advantage. Twitter gives you the latest updates of the news around you. Follow people involved in cybersecurity. Keep up to date with them. The same goes with Facebook, Instagram, and especially LinkedIn. Follow cybersecurity trends. Know what is happening in the market and the world around you. Make as many connections on LinkedIn as you can with people in the cybersecurity industry. You never know when a job opportunity may pop up through this channel and you may be contacted by a connection looking for someone just like you with your specific skill set.

05

## When It's Time, It's Time

The day you realize you have nothing left to learn from your career is the day you know you must move on. Whether you're in your mid-20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, or 60s, it's never too late to make the decision to pivot to a new career – especially into cybersecurity. Plan carefully, follow the steps above and strategically make your exit, ready to start your new cybersecurity position.

06

*Whether you're in your mid-20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, or 60s, it's never too late to make the decision to pivot to a career in cybersecurity."*



## Just Do It!

It's never too late to stop learning or challenging yourself professionally.

The cybersecurity field is one of the fastest growing in the world. Stay on top of your game by taking extra courses and studying towards certificates so that your knowledge stays relevant. California State University Long Beach offers a [Cybersecurity Professional Certificate Program](#) that helps you prepare for all the major cybersecurity certificates out there:

- | **Linux LPI Essentials**
- | **Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate**
- | **CompTIA Network+**
- | **CompTIA Security+**
- | **CompTIA CySA+**
- | **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner**
- | **(ISC)<sup>2</sup> SSCP**

When asked if a 42-year-old can get into Cybersecurity without an IT background, [Marc Krisjanous](#), who has a CISSP, PCI QSA and has been in the IT sector for over 15 years, enthusiastically stated:

*“Of course you can! You will have life-skills and other business skills that will be desirable in the IT security sector. IT security is not just technical - there are many facets. For example, social engineering requires a level of maturity and knowledge of business processes required to convince the target. Your age also presents a certain instant trust for the target hence legal skills are also needed, as well as policy, governance, risk and sales skills etc.”*







# TIME FOR CHANGE

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**Make that move. The time is right.**

By 2021

# 3.5M

cybersecurity positions are expected to be waiting for the qualified personnel to fill them.

**Make that number 3,499,999!**

For more information on the **California State University Long Beach Cybersecurity Professional Certificate Program**, contact us to schedule a call with one of our Cybersecurity Education Advisors.

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(562) 359-4787



6300 State University Dr.  
Long Beach, CA 90815



[cybersecurity.cpie.csulb.edu](https://cybersecurity.cpie.csulb.edu)