Apprenticeship**USA** Chat Sheet
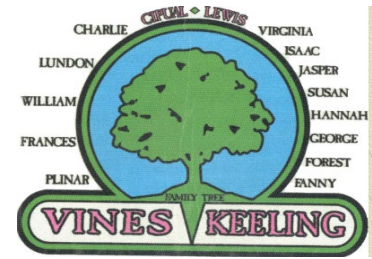
December 2024

Monthly Newsletter for H.S. Students - Cybersecurity

What is Cybersecurity?

The cybersecurity industry encompasses the technologies, processes, and practices designed to protect computer systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, use, disclosures, disruption, modification, or destruction. In simpler terms, it's all about keeping our digital information safe from hackers and other threats.
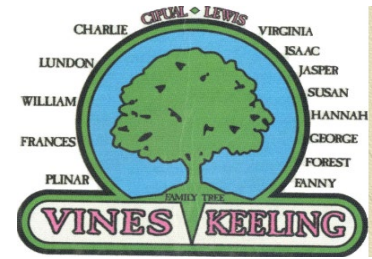
Why is Cybersecurity Important?

Cybersecurity is important because our lives are increasingly reliant on a greatly interconnected digital world. Think of Artifical Intelligence (AI) is all based on the internet.   We use computers and the internet for everything from banking and shopping to communicating with friends and family. As more and more of our information is stored online, it's more important than ever to protect it from cyberattacks.

What are the Benefits of a Career in Cybersecurity?

There is a severe shortage of skilled workers. Cybersecurity jobs have high starting salaries and offer good benefits within many industries and locations. The starting average annual salary in 2022 was $109,700 with a college degree. Cybersecurity jobs are also in high demand for high school graduates with a level of certification, so there are many opportunities for job growth and advancement. Sample job titles with starting average annul salaries are:

1) Junior Security Analyst – ($68,750/year) w/HS Diploma + Certificates;
2) Security Operations Center Analyst – ($82,500/year) w/HS Diploma + Certificates;
3) Incident Responder – ($160,000/year) with college degree;
4) Help Desk Tech w/Security Focus – ($60,000/year) w/HS Diploma + Certificates;
5) Cybersecurity Analyst Trainee – ($64,500/year) w/HS Diploma + Certificates.

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How to Prepare for a Career in Cybersecurity?

If you are interested in a career in the Cybersecurity Industry, there are a few different ways you can get started. Focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathmatics skills which are valuable across roles. Also, research ways to earn industry certifications like Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) or Security+ Certification.

Another approach is an Apprenticeship. Go to the **ApprenticeshipUSA** link for more information[click the blue] (Homepage | Apprenticeship.gov). There, you will find Apprenticeship Programs and on-the-job training opportunities which can take 2 to 4 years of hands-on and classroom training. Let me know if you have questions.

For local in-person support you can use your area **American Job Center** (**AJC**) [click the blue] (American Job Center Finder | CareerOneStop). Simply enter your Zip code to find your nearest AJC.

Conclusion

The Cybersecurity industry is undergoing a period of rapid growth, driven by the expansion and reliance on the digital economy including Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the USA. The Cybersecurity industry is a great place to start a career and grow your digital skills. If you are interested, it is recommended you take math and science classes in high school and research different cyber jobs and careers.

Additional Tips for High School Students

- Take advantage of career counseling services at your school, if available. Your school counselors can help you to learn more about different career options, including Cybersecurity careers.

- Check out the American Job Center (AJC) above…. a great resource!