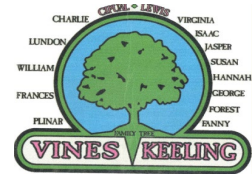# ApprenticeshipUSA Chat Sheet

**December 2025**

## Monthly Newsletter for H.S. Students – Cybersecurity Industry

### What is the Cybersecurity Industry?

**The Shield and the Sword:  Navigating the Cybersecurity Industry**

At its core, the cybersecurity industry is the global effort to protect systems, networks, and data from digital attacks. Think of it as the "**digital defense force**." It isn't just about hackers in hoodies; it's a massive ecosystem involving:

- **Defensive Security (Blue Teaming):** Building walls and monitoring for intruders.
- **Offensive Security (Red Teaming):** Legally hacking into systems to find weaknesses before the "**bad guys**" do.
- **Governance & Ethics:**  Creating laws and policies to keep the internet safe and private.

### Why is Cybersecurity Important?

We live in a world where everything—from hospital records and power grids to your own social media accounts—is stored online. A single breach can cause massive real-world consequences.

- **National Security:** Protecting a country's infrastructure from foreign interference.
- **Economic Stability:** Preventing billions of dollars in theft from banks and businesses.
- **Personal Privacy:** Ensuring your private conversations and identity stay private.

### What are the Benefits of a Career in the Cybersecurity Industry?

Cybersecurity offers strong, accessible, and rewarding career opportunities, especially for high school graduates.  Benefits include:

💼 **High-demand and job security:** There are currently millions of unfilled cybersecurity jobs worldwide.  You will likely never struggle to find work.

💰 **Strong starting wages:** Even entry-level roles often pay well due to the high demand for talent.

🚀 **Career Growth:** Professionals can advance into specialized or leadership roles.

🧩 **Meaningful Work** Cybersecurity prfessionals help protect people, organizations, and communities.

🌎 **Opportunities for creativity:**  Cybersecurity is like solving puzzles—every day brings new challenges.

# Apprenticeship**USA** Chat Sheet

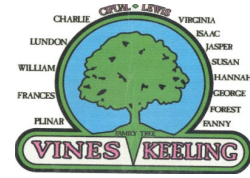See the table below for job types in Cybersecurity…

| Job Title | Description | Average Starting Salary (Annual) | Certifications that Help | Career / Outlook |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SOC Analyst (Level 1) – Security Operations Center | • **What You'll Do:** Monitor/Respond to activity or threats. Create/escalate major incidents<br>• **Skills Needed:** Attention to details and pattern recognition. Basic knowledge of "SIEM" (Security, Information, Event, Management) tools (i.e. Splunk)<br>• **Cool Perk:** Work with cutting-edge security tools. Fast career progression to higher pay. | $50,000 – $65,000/year | • CompTIA Security +<br>• CompTIA CySA+<br>• Cisco Certified Support Technician<br>• BlueTeam Level 1 | **Very High Demand** |
| **Cybersecurity Analyst Apprentice/Trainee** | • **What You'll Do:** Assist senior analysts, perform basic threat analysis, learn tools and processes.<br>• **Skills Needed:** Curiosity and willingness to learn. Basic IT knowledge, Problem solving and good communication skills<br>• **Cool Perk:** Paid training/No experience required/clear pathway to full-time cyber roles. | $33,000 – $52,000/year | • ITF + (IT Fundamentals)<br>• CompTIA A+<br>• Google Cybersecurity Certificate | **Very High Demand** |

# ApprenticeshipUSA Chat Sheet

| Job Title | Description | Average Starting Salary (Annual) | Certifications that Help | Career / Outlook |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cybersecurity Technician/Junior Security Technician** | • **What You'll Do:** Assist senior cybersecurity specialists/maintain security SIEM tools.<br>• **Skills Needed:** Basis understanding of Security/network tools. Curiosity about hackers.<br>• **Cool Perk:** Real hands-on exposure to cybesecurity work | $45,000 – $60,000/yr | • CompTIA Security +<br>• CompTIA Network +<br>• Cisco CCNA (network basics) | **High Demand** |
| **Network Support Technician** | • **What You'll Do:** Set up and troubleshoot routers, switches, and Wi-Fi networks/work with IT teams<br>• **Skills Needed:** Understanding of basis network concepts/Hands-on troubleshooting/documentation<br>• **Cool Perk:** Highly transferrable skill set across industries. | $45,000 – $60,000/yr | • CompTIA Network +<br>• Cisco CCNA<br>• CompTIA A+ | **Medium-High Demand** |
| **Junior Penetration Tester (Apprentice or Entry Level)** | • **What You'll Do:** Help security teams simulate attachs/study hacking techniques ethically<br>• **Skills Needed:** Strong interest in hacking and problem-solving. Curiosity and creativity. Basic programming.<br>• **Cool Perk:** One of the most exciting cybersecurity paths. Highly paid in mid-career | $45,000 – $60,000/yr | • eLearnSecurity eJPT<br>• CompTIA PenTest+<br>• TryHackMe/HackTheBox labs for practice | **Medium Demand** |

# Apprenticeship**USA** Chat Sheet

## How to Prepare for a Career in the Cybersecurity Industry?

Interested in a career in the Cybersecurity industry? Focus on learning how computers, networks and the internet work. Develop your Problem-Solving and Critical Thinking skills. Research to learn about relevant Certifications and Licenses that can enhance your career prospects, refer to previous table for preferred job.

Go to the **ApprenticeshipUSA** link for more information[click the blue] (Homepage | Apprenticeship.gov) to find Apprenticeship Programs and on-the-job training opportunities which can take 1 to 2 years of hands-on and classroom training with pay. Let me know if you have questions or need assistance.

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 expanding and offer exciting careers for motivated and prepared individuals. Remember, the journey to becoming a Cybersecurity professional begins now, so start actively preparing and exploring your options.

## Additional Tips for High School Students

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

## Tip for recent High School graduates looking for a change:

- Check out the American Job Center (AJC) above…a great resource!
- **How to work Better:** (Tips from Chester, England)
  1) Do One Thing at a time;
  2) Know the Problem;
  3) Learn to Listen;
  4) Learn to Ask Questions;
  5) Distinguish Sense from Nonsense;
  6) Accept Change is Inevitable;
  7) Admit Mistakes;
  8) Say it Simple;
  9) Be Calm;
  10) Smile.