CYBERSECURITY
Center *of* Excellence
WASHINGTON STATE
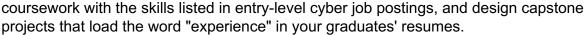
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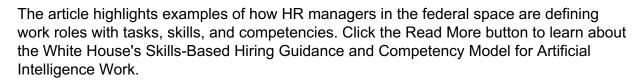
News & Updates

June 2024

White House Adopts Skills-First Hiring Policy for Tech

In April, the White House Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) announced an overhaul of hiring practices for federal technical workers.

A skills-first approach to job postings and hiring criteria will remove barriers for job-seekers who possess talent and experience, but lack degrees.

If this paradigm becomes mainstream in the private sector too, colleges should double-down on skills-focused courses. Clearly define your learning outcomes, align coursework with the skills listed in entry-level cyber job postings, and design capstone projects that load the word "experience" in your graduates' resumes.

The article highlights examples of how HR managers in the federal space are defining work roles with tasks, skills, and competencies. Click the Read More button to learn about the White House's Skills-Based Hiring Guidance and Competency Model for Artificial Intelligence Work.

Read More

$1 Million in Prizes for Cyber Innovators

Submit proposals by June 21, 2024

The Cyber Innovators Challenge is presented by the National Security Innovation Network (NSIN). This is a branch of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD). They bring together innovators from multiple sectors with a mission to address critical cyber threats faced by the DoD.

The three problem areas calling for proposals are:
- Modeling and Predictive Analytics

- Persona and Influence
- Data and Permeability

$1 million in prizes will be split between the winning teams or individuals in these categories.

University faculty, researchers and students are invited. There is potential for follow-on opportunities as well.

Read More

Spotlight on Spokane Falls Community College (SFCC)

SFCC is one of 10 colleges in WA state that have earned the CAE-CD designation (Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defence).

To ask about the process of earning this distinguished title, we interviewed the SFCC Dean of Computing, Math & Science, Sarah Martin, Ph.D. This article presents an overview of our conversation.

The AAS degree in Information Technology is the program of study designated as CAE-CD approved. Read this program's list of classes to see its heavy emphasis on cybersecurity.

A two-year degree from a CAE-CD program can fast-track grads into cyber jobs.

Read More

Earn a Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)

The CCSK certificate program is managed by the Cloud Security Alliance and is globally recognized as the top vendor-neutral training for best practices to secure data in the cloud. Earning the CCSK provides you with core cloud knowledge, laying a foundation for higher level certificates later.

The CCoE has pre-paid for a number of exam bundles. Please apply for one today!

The CCSK exam bundle includes online self-paced training and one exam token. Individuals have one year to do the training and take the exam. Estimated time to complete: 16 hours.

Apply Now

Cybersecurity Soft Skills

We asked Kayne McGladrey for his insights about soft skills, or "transferrable skills", in cybersecurity. Kayne is the Field CISO for Hyperproof and a senior member of the IEEE.

Among his top 12 recommended skills are problem solving, project management, critical thinking, and customer service. Click Read More for the full discussion. As you read, analyze these questions:

- How well does your curriculum strive to instill these talents into learners?
- In what ways are these needed in cybersecurity jobs?
- How can students practice these skills in capstone projects and internships?

Read More

Free Training to Learn AI Prompt Engineering

The Cloud Security Alliance offers a 1.5 hour course on: **Introduction to Generative AI & Prompt Engineering**

This self-paced course emphasizes the wide-ranging applications of generative AI, highlighting its benefits, while also examining ethical considerations and its potential impact on our future.

The module has four units:

- Basics of AI,
- Large Language Models,
- Prompt Engineering,
- Prompt Troubleshooting.

Register

According to IBM,
"Clever prompt engineers working in open-source environments are pushing generative AI to do incredible things not necessarily a part of their initial design scope and are producing some surprising real-world results."
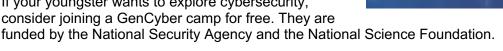
Upcoming Events

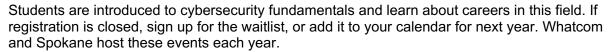## GenCyber Camp for Middle & High School Students

GenCyber events are hosted at colleges around the nation in an effort to inspire younger students to pursue cybersecurity as their career.

This summer, both Spokane Falls and Whatcom community colleges are hosting GenCyber camps.

Whatcom: July 8 - 12
Spokane: July 15 - 19

If your youngster wants to explore cybersecurity, consider joining a GenCyber camp for free. They are funded by the National Security Agency and the National Science Foundation.

Students are introduced to cybersecurity fundamentals and learn about careers in this field. If registration is closed, sign up for the waitlist, or add it to your calendar for next year. Whatcom and Spokane host these events each year.

Register with Whatcom

Register with Spokane

About the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE)

Hosted at **Whatcom Community College** in Bellingham, WA, the CCoE serves as a state-wide hub to enable Washington state's community & technical college system to be the epicenter for cybersecurity education and connect employers with a highly skilled workforce, empowering our region to thrive securely and safely.

Photo of Syre Student Center at Whatcom Community College

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