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Getting Started in IT Security

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September 18, 2025



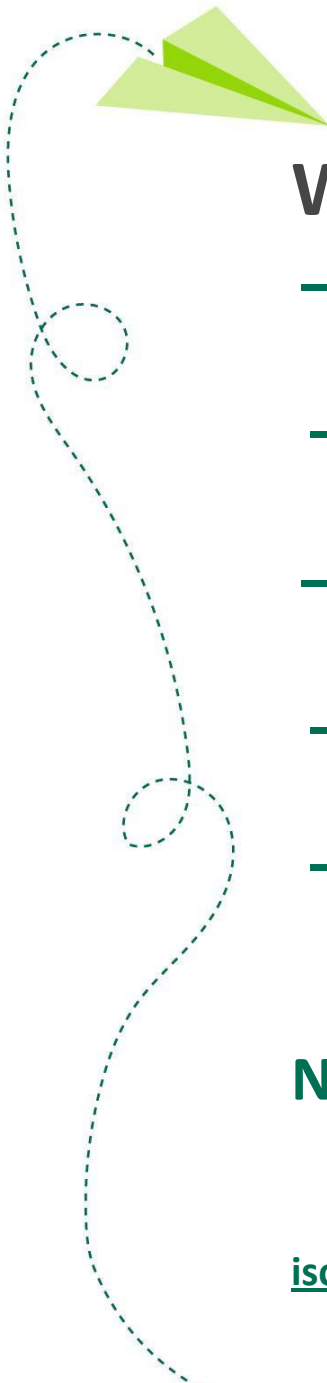
How to get started in IT Security

- What jobs are out there?
- What skills do I need?
- How to get experience without a job / job without experience?

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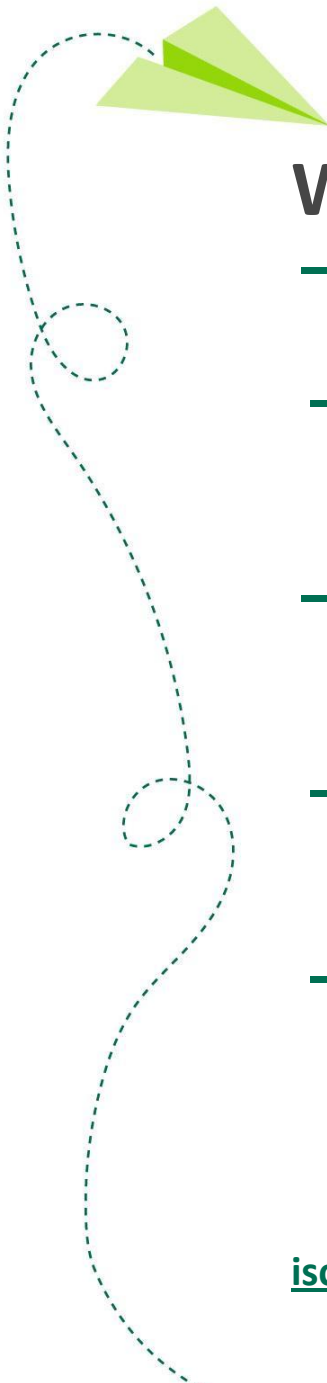


What jobs are out there?

- Customer Support / Help Desk
 - Ticket generating
- Desktop Support / Technical Support
 - Troubleshoot workstations or product
- Systems Analyst / Cloud Developer
 - Maintain systems or products
- Data Analyst / AI Trainer
 - Using data to meet company needs
- Junior Systems Engineer
 - Design or develop system (under supervision)

None of these are particularly security focused





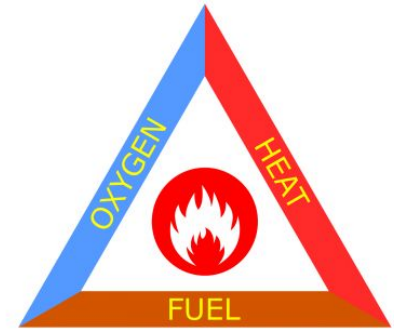
What skills do I need?

- **Customer Support / Help Desk**
 - People skills & general IT knowledge
- **Desktop Support / Technical Support**
 - Operating System and troubleshooting skills
 - More specialized IT knowledge
- **Systems Analyst / Cloud Developer**
 - Knowledge maintaining systems or cloud products
 - Familiarity with configuration files, IaC, etc.
- **Data Analyst / AI Trainer**
 - Understands data types, data training models and business value of data
- **Junior Systems Engineer**
 - Can build systems and develop processes



Fighting IT Fires

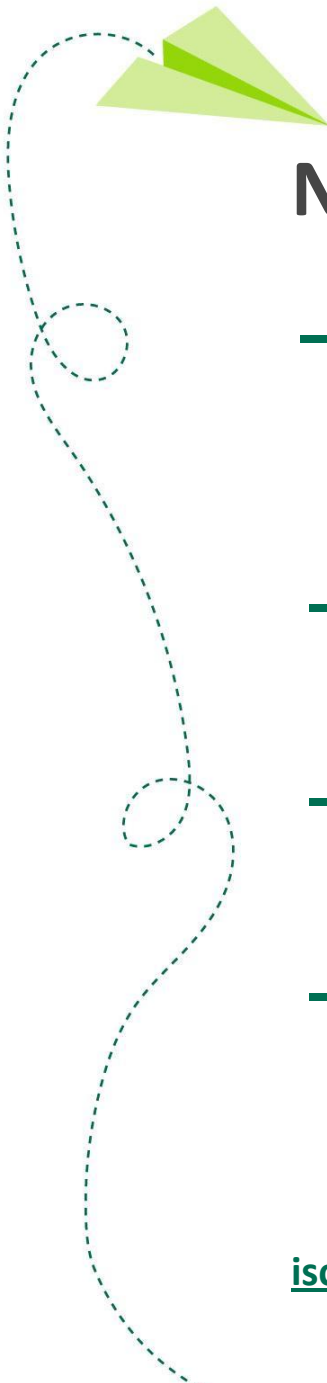
- Firefighting starts with understanding how to make a fire
 - Oxygen + Heat + Fuel
- Cybersecurity is the application of IT knowledge and cyber best practices
 - You first need to understand how something is supposed to work before you can secure it
- Cybersecurity is as broad as the IT field itself
 - Learn what you can
 - Find what you love



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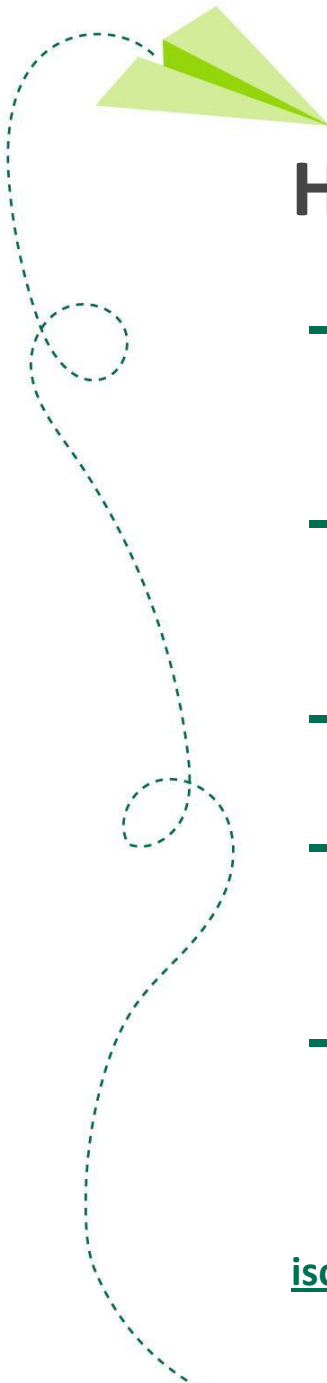
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No One Can Teach You Passion

- **Dedicate free time to learning something new**
 - You don't know what you don't know until you know it
- **Be willing to practice**
 - Practice makes permanent
- **Show/Share your work**
 - Have your resume build itself
- **Iterate and diversify**
 - Improve on yourself
 - Incorporate new technologies





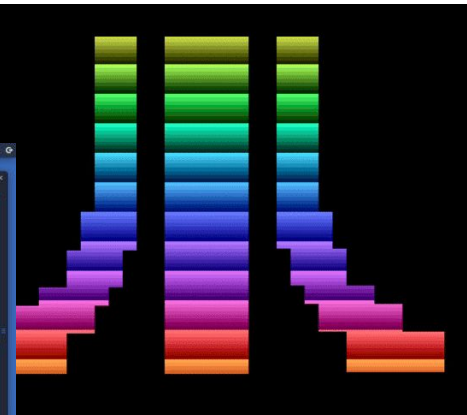
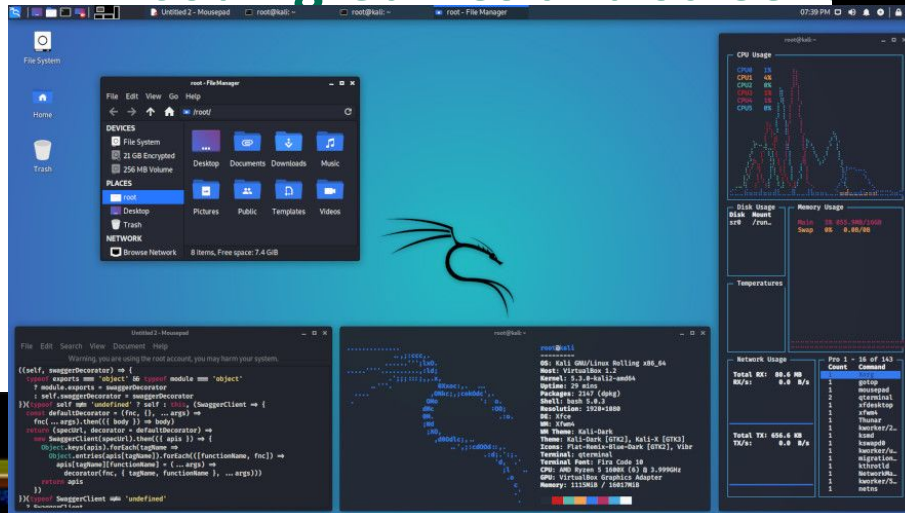
How I Overcame Odds

- Self-taught programing in GWBasic because High School wouldn't due to a curriculum change
- Became a lab-monitor in College just to get some experience—first experience making Cat5 cables
- Built a home lab dumpster salvaged computers
- Borrowed books from the library to learn about technologies that I didn't have access to
- Tutored other students on C++ and Java, which improved my own understanding of the languages



Make it fun!

- Coding Games and screens



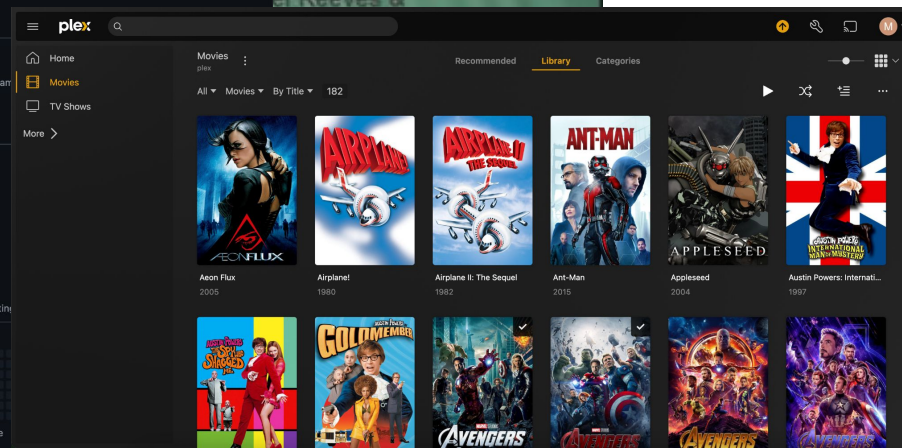
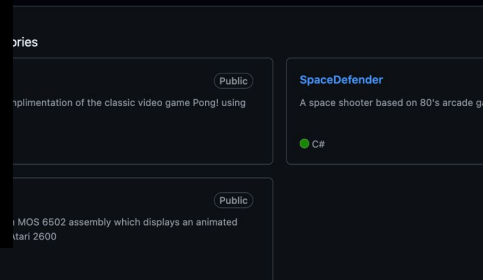
A tribute to the "original video game" by Alan Alcorn

This program is open-source and freely distributed at:
<http://reeves.whitacres.net/>

Copyright 2008



THIS IS SHREDDER.
LISTEN TO ME, TURTLES.

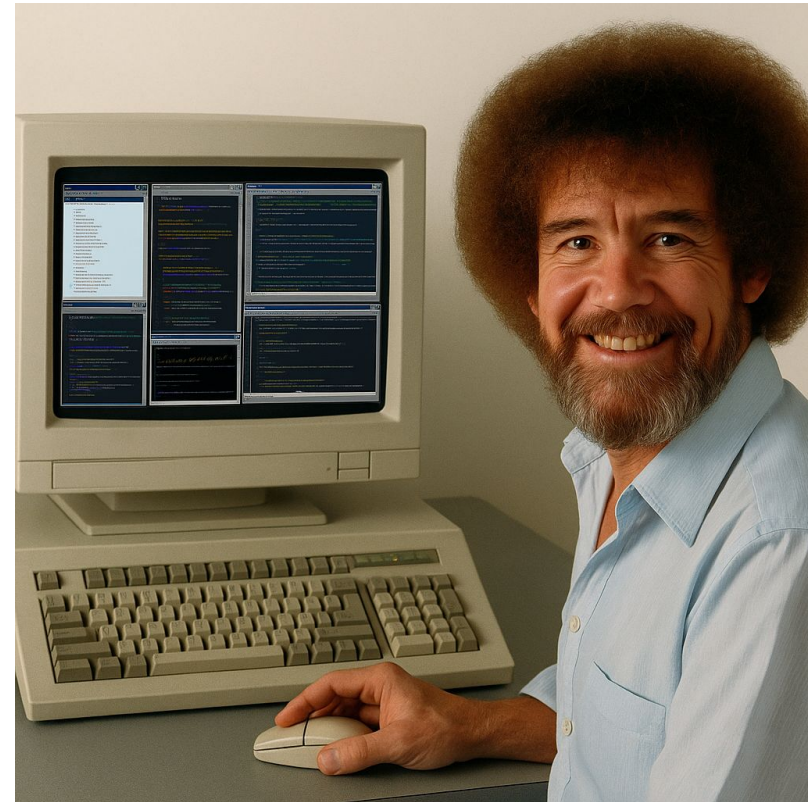


Contribution activity

2020

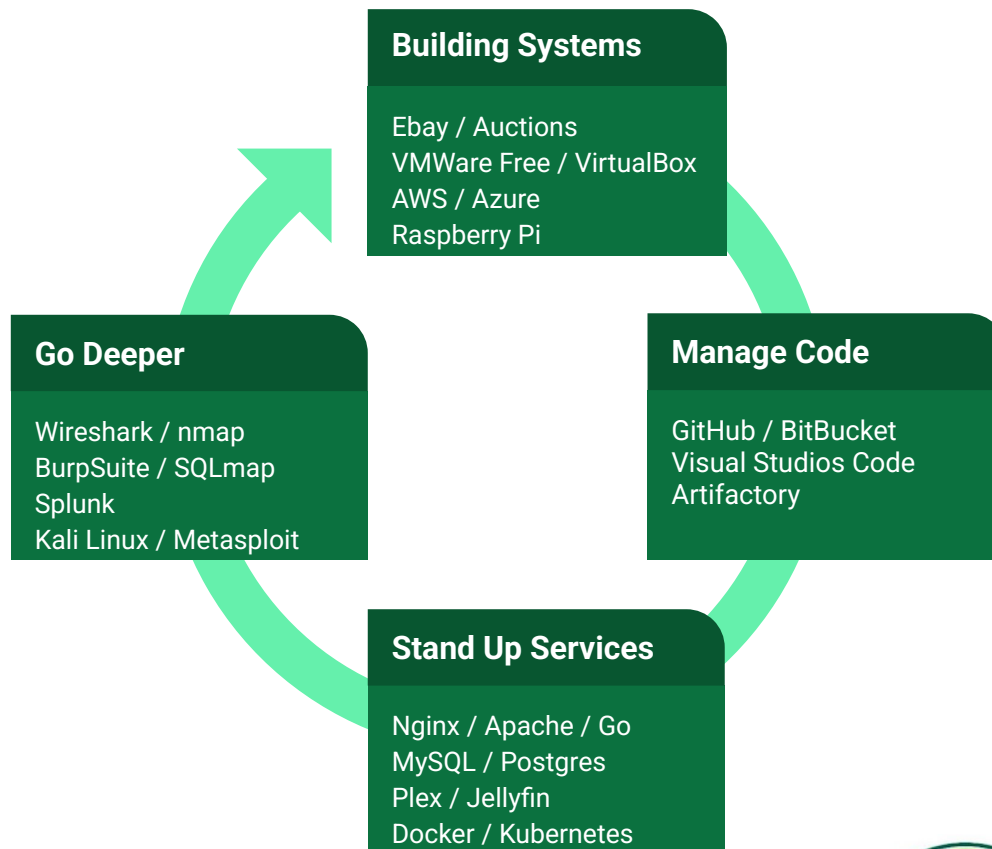
Coding Like Bob Ross

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Make Your Own Projects



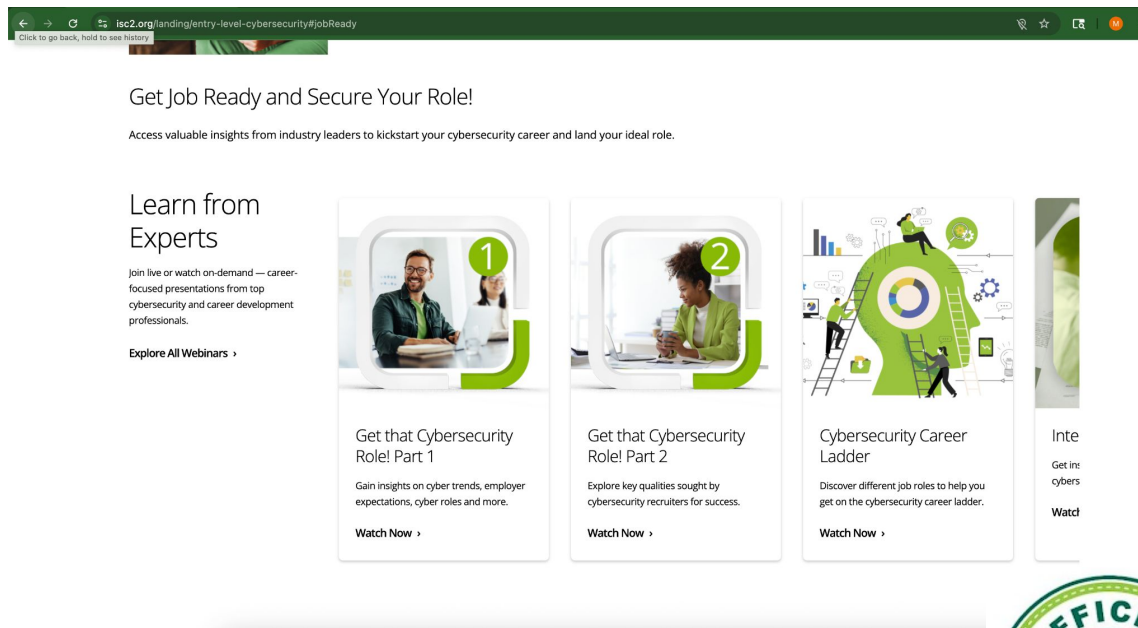
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More Free Resources

- ISC2 has numerous other webinars on how to get started in the field
 - <https://www.isc2.org/landing/entry-level-cybersecurity#jobReady>



The screenshot shows the ISC2 'Get Job Ready and Secure Your Role!' landing page. It features a green header with the ISC2 logo and navigation links. Below the header, there's a section titled 'Learn from Experts' with a description of live and on-demand webinars. To the right, there are three main content cards: 'Get that Cybersecurity Role! Part 1', 'Get that Cybersecurity Role! Part 2', and 'Cybersecurity Career Ladder'. Each card includes a 'Watch Now' button. The page also has a sidebar on the right with a 'Get in: cybers' section.

Get Job Ready and Secure Your Role!

Access valuable insights from industry leaders to kickstart your cybersecurity career and land your ideal role.

Learn from Experts

Join live or watch on-demand — career-focused presentations from top cybersecurity and career development professionals.

Explore All Webinars >

1 Get that Cybersecurity Role! Part 1

Gain insights on cyber trends, employer expectations, cyber roles and more.

Watch Now >

2 Get that Cybersecurity Role! Part 2

Explore key qualities sought by cybersecurity recruiters for success.

Watch Now >

Cybersecurity Career Ladder

Discover different job roles to help you get on the cybersecurity career ladder.

Watch Now >

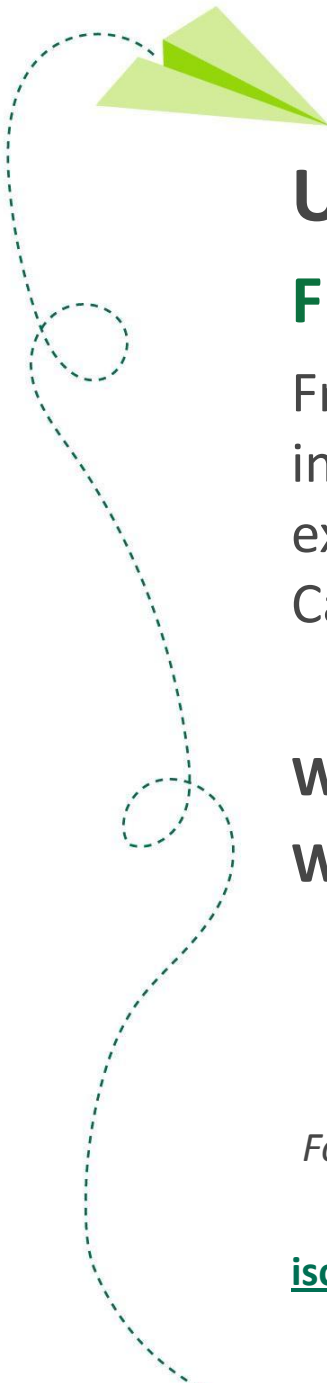
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Upcoming Events

FRCC Fall Industry Panel

Front Range Community College will be hosting a panel of industry professionals to answer questions and discuss their experience in the cybersecurity field at their Westminster Campus.

When: November 13, 2005 @ 5:30pm - 8:00pm

Where: FRCC Westminster Campus
3645 W 112th Ave. (Entrance 1)
Westminster, CO 80031

Food and refreshments will be provided

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