

Information Security Newsletter

September 2019



= Careers in Cybersecurity =
Learn More & Get Involved!

From the Desk of Milind Samant, ISO

Let me take the opportunity to welcome you all to a new academic year at SUNY Old Westbury. As we embark on the fall semester keep in mind one of the goals of the College's Strategic Plan is to "Foster Student Success". Via this newsletter, I would like to mention the various career opportunities that exist in the CyberSecurity arena. Technology is expanding its reach over our daily lives and is becoming increasingly necessary in today's society. While change can be daunting, it brings new opportunities that did not exist just a few years ago. This opens the door for new and exciting (not to mention realistic) careers one can chase, like cybersecurity.

Twenty years ago, society and the media focused on the Y2K bug and ensuring computers would survive the transition from 12/31/1999 to 1/1/2000. Currently, technology headlines are dominated by breaches and ransomware attacks, directly impacting people everywhere. It is evident that the cybersecurity field needs capable professionals now more than ever.

Some of us may be interested in becoming one of those people, or might be aware of our student or a colleague that may have interest in this discipline. Let me help to explore the cybersecurity field, and discuss what skills are needed, and the available career pathways.

Consider the skills and talents you use every day. Aside from technical abilities, many skills that transfer into the field of cybersecurity may surprise you. Communication and writing skills lend to effectively conveying the risk to all levels of an organization. The ability to analyze data gives an advantage when defining metrics. Attention to detail helps when analyzing legislation or conducting digital forensics. See below for more examples of required skills.

Soft Skills for Management Positions	Soft Skills for Non-Management Positions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strong leadership skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to think outside the box
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategic thinker	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to work in a team
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Long-term planning• Capable of handling stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analytical thinking, Creativity, Curiosity and Flexibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good oral and written communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capable of handling stress
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creative problem solving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attention to detail
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capable of handling stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interest in cybersecurity/hacking
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to multitask	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to delegate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Problem Solving

As the field of cybersecurity continues to explode, more and more positions and pathways are created. It is important to note that cybersecurity can be broken into two distinct focus areas:

1. Security Management - Security Management focuses on policies, procedures, education initiatives, and the governance around all elements of a security program.
2. Security Operations - Security Operations on the other hand, focuses more on the technical side of security such as device management, penetration testing, event monitoring, etc.

While considering your path, think about which option appeals to you more. The [National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education's](#) (NICE) framework is a great career pathing guide as it standardizes career paths and job titles and provides lists of core competencies and skills. The [Cyber Seek Cybersecurity Career Pathway](#) site provides a place to consider job paths, while also looking at current openings around the United States.

Although cybersecurity was not as common or distinct of a career path in the distant past, we are seeing it more prominently represented as an option in education. The need to introduce students to cybersecurity becomes critical to help fill the skills gap in the field.

When I read articles such as the Chronicle of Higher Education's "[Just in Time for a Fall Term, a Cyberattack Forces an Entire College's System Offline](#)", I am reminded that Colleges and Universities have some challenges that maybe don't exist as much in the corporate world. It becomes very important that Information Security best practices are followed in our daily operations. SUNY Old Westbury will be refreshing its security awareness training that is offered to all College employees in an attempt to resist "social engineering" attacks, like phishing attempts, that prey on human error.

I wish you all the best for a wonderful year ahead as we continue to foster personal growth and prepare our students to embrace the social and environmental responsibilities of this century.

Reminders....

- **Set a strong password:** Use at least 8 characters in upper and lower case, numbers, and symbols.
- **Keep your device locked:** Use a password, pin, pattern, or fingerprint lock when you are not actively using it.
- **When in doubt, throw it out and contact the Service Desk at** servicedesk@oldwestbury.edu **or call X3098.**

Provided By:

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The information provided in the Monthly Information Security Newsletter is intended to increase the data security awareness of SUNY Old Westbury end users and to help them behave in a more secure manner within SUNY Old Westbury work environment. While some of the tips may relate to maintaining a home computer, the increased awareness is intended to help improve the SUNY Old Westbury's overall cyber security posture.

Disclaimer: These links are provided because they have information that may be useful. The SUNY Old Westbury ITS Department does not warrant the accuracy of any information contained in the links and neither endorses nor intends to promote the advertising of the resources listed herein.