Security Certifications

NEbraskaCERT
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Introduction

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- Certifications
  - General Purpose Security
  - Specialization E.g. Computer Forensics
  - Vendor
  - Other
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- Resources

Disclaimers

- All opinions are mine/Bob's
- NEbraskaCERT does offer CISSP training not affiliated with ISC2
- NebraskaCERT will be offering a chance to sit for the CISSP exam this August 2 at our conference
- NebraskaCERT may also be offering another training/certification program this year such as NSA IAM
- All values listed are subject to change

General Points

- Certifications are not a substitute for experience
- Certifications vary widely in their quality
- Be wary of most certifications that are bundled with training
- Bootcamps with exams at the end might get you a certification, but how much will you retain
- You probably won't find out which problems you got wrong – in some cases such as CISSP you won't even get a score

General Points

- Slides will be on the website (http://www.nebraskacert.org) in the next couple of days

General Certifications

- Check Point Certified Security Principles Associate
- CompTIA Security+
- ISC2 CISSP
- ISC2 SSCP
- ISC2 area of concentrations

General Certifications (Cont)

- ISACA CISA
- ISACA CISM
- SANS GIAC Security Engineer
- TruSecure TICSA

Check Point Certified Security Principles Associate (CSPA)

- Vendor

Checkpoint

- Exam Format

Multiple Choice

- Recertification Requirements

N/A

- Vendor Specific

No

- Cost

$150

Check Point Certified Security Principles Associate (CSPA)

- Value (Subjective)

Medium

- Pros

Entry level certification for Check Point
Emphasizes Basics
Might Supplement other certifications
Known Name

- Cons

Potential confusion "what do you mean you don't know
how to configure a firewall"

CompTIA Security+

- Vendor

CompTIA

- Exam Format

Multiple Choice Exam 100 questions

- Recertification requirements

None

- Vendor Specific

No

- Cost

$225

CompTIA Security+

- Value (subjective)

  Low

- Pros

  Can be taken through Prometric/VUE centers

  Good entry level certification

  Can be used to cross certify for some other certifications
      such as Microsoft

  Lots of study material available

- Cons

  Entry level certification

ISC2 Certified System Security Professional (CISSP)

- Vendor

  ISC2
- Exam Format

  1 Exam 250 questions 6 Hours
- Recertification requirements

  Continuing Education Credits & annual fee
- Vendor Specific

  No
- Cost

  $499 Early Registration, $85 Recert fee

ISC2 Certified System Security Professional (CISSP)

- Value (Subjective)

Very High

- Pros

Gold standard
Wide breadth of topics

- Cons

Not as rare as it used to be :-)
Limited exam availability
Need professional Experience
No scores

ISC2 System Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)

- Vendor

  ISC2

- Exam Format

  1 Exam 125 multiple choice questions 3 hours

- Recertification Requirements

  Continuing education requirements & Annual Fee

- Vendor Specific

  No

- Cost

  $369 Early Registration, $?? Annual Fee

ISC2 System Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP)

- Value (Subjective)
  High
- Pros
  More easily attained than CISSP
  Lower requirements
- Cons
  Exam availibility restricted as CISSP
  Considered by some as a junior CISSP

ISC2 Area of Concentrations

- ISC2 offers the following 3 areas of concentrations

  Information System Security Engineering Professional (ISSEP) – Developed with NSA

  ISSMP stands for Information System Security Management Professional (ISSMP) - Management

  ISSAP stands for Information System Security Architecture Professional (ISSAP) - Architecture

ISC2 Area of Concentrations

- Exam Format
  1 Additional Exam – 100 questions
- Recertification requirements
  Continuing education credits & Annual Fee
- Vendor specific
  No
- Cost
  ~$300

ISC2 Area of Concentrations

- Value (subjective)

  Probably High

- Pros

  Build upon CISSP

  Buzz word worth

- Cons

  Market hasn't set value yet

  Lack of study materials

ISACA Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)

- Vendor

ISACA

- Exam Format

1 Multiple choice exam 200 questions 4 hours

- Recertification requirements

Continuing education credits and annual fee

- Vendor Specific

No

- Cost

$465 Exam Fee, $85 Annual Fee

ISACA Certified Information System Auditor (CISA)

- Value (subjective)

  Very high

- Pros

  Good name recognition outside of Computer Security
  Folk

  Not particularly technical

- Cons

  Only offered once a year

  Experience requirements

ISACA Certified Information System Manager (CISM)

- Vendor

  Information System Audit and Control Association

- Exam Format

  1 Multiple choice exam 200 questions 4 hours

- Recertification requirements

  Continuing education credits and an annual fee

- Cost

  $465 exam fee and $85 annual fee

ISACA Certified Information System Manager (CISM)

- Value (Subjective)

Moderate

- Pros

Complements CISA

- Cons

Not as well known as CISA

Confused with CISSP by many

Offered only once a year in June

Lot of people offered chance to get CISM without taking exam

SANS GIAC Security Engineer

- Vendor

  SANS

- Exam format

  Multiple choice exams

- Recertification Requirements

  Continuing education credits

- Vendor Specific

  No

- Cost

  7 Exams at $250, $1250

SANS GIAC Security Engineer

- Value (Subjective)
  Very High
- Pros
  The "other" security certification
  Areas of specialization
  Is more than just an exam
- Cons
  Almost a way of life

TruSecure ICSA Certified Security Associate (TICSA)

- Vendor

  TruSecure

- Exam Format

  70 question format, multiple choice

- Recertification requirements

  Valid for 2 years, Recert plan being developed

- Vendor Specific

  No

- Cost

  $295.00

TruSecure ICSA Certified Security Associate (TICSA)

- Value (subjective)

Medium

- Pros

Alternative to Security+ for first security certification
Appears to have more technical content
TruSecure/ICSA has some recognition

- Cons

None, really

Specialized Certifications

- Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)
- Certified Ethical Hacker
- Certified Computer Examiner Certification

Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)

- Vendor

  Planet 3 Wireless

- Prereqs

  CWNA (Certified Wireless Network Administrator)

- Exam Format

  1 CWNA, 1 CWSP

  Multiple choice, 60 questions

- Recertification requirements

  N/A

- Cost

  $150 per exam

Certified Wireless Security Professional (CWSP)

- Value (subjective)

  High
- Pros

  Wireless is hot area right now

  Some room for growth in certification path
- Cons

  Planet 3 Wireless???

  How does this compare to Cisco's

Certified Ethical Hacker

- Vendor

  EC-Council (E-Commerce Consultants)
- Exam Format

  125 questions multiple choice
- Recertification requirements

  N/A
- Vendor Specific

  No
- Cost

  ~$250

Certified Ethical Hacker

- Value (subjective)
  N/A
- Pros
  "Ethical Hacker" title is cool
  Can take test online
  Tool based
- Cons
  EC-Council
  Market has yet to place any value on it

Certified Computer Examiner Certification

- Vendor

  Certified Computer Examiner.com

- Exam Format

  Multiple choice exam

  Hands on testing

- Recertification requirements

  N/A

- Cost

  $345, plus potential fees for media

Certified Computer Examiner Certification

- Value Subjective

  Relatively High

- Pros

  Forensics are hot right now
  Actually have to recover data off a drive

- Cons

  Vendor is not well established yet

Vendor

- Vendors offer security certifications for their products

  Checkpoint
  Cisco
  HP
  Microsoft
  Network Associates (Sniffer Pro)
  Novell
  Sun
  Symantec

Other

- These are a few other certifications which might be encountered
- Brainbench offers a variety of certifications including HIPPA and Internet Security
- Security Certified Program offers several certifications such as Security Certified Network Professional (SCNP)
- IEEE was working on a certification program

Other

- CIW offers the CIW Security Analyst certification
- Ideahamster has several Open Source certification programs, most are tied to training – they make a lot of great information available on their site

Summary

- Possible Certification Paths

  Security+ -> TruSecure -> CISSP

  Vendor Specific

  Area of specilization

- Brainbench offers free online sign up and some older exams for free

  Good chance to get back in habit of taking tests

Summary

- How to get Continuing Education Credits
  - CSFs qualify
  - Give a talk
  - Attend a security conference
  - Write an article for a security magazine or an article about security

Resources (High Level)

- CertCities
  http://www.certcities.com
- GoCertify
  http://www.gocertify.com

Resources (General Certs)

- Certified Computer Examiner
  http://www.certified-computer-examiner.com/
- CompTIA
  http://www.comptia.com
- CWSP
  http://www.cwne.com
- ISC2
  http://www.isc2.org

Resources (General Certs)

- ISACA
  http://www.isaca.org
- Sans
  http://www.sans.org
- TruSecure
  http://ticsa.trusecure.com

Resources (Vendors)

- Check Point
  http://www.checkpoint.com
- Cisco
  http://www.cisco.com
- HP
  http://www.hp.com
- Microsoft
  http://www.microsoft.com

Resources (Vendors)

- Network Associates
  http://www.networkassociates.com
- Novell
  http://www.novell.com
- Symantec
  http://www.symantec.com

Resources (Other)

- Brainbench
  http://www.brainbench.com
- Security Certified Program
  http://www.securitycertified.net
- CIW
  http://www.ciwcertified.com
- IEEE
  http://www.ieee.org
- Idea Hamster
  http://www.ideahamster.org

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