



# Career of the week

## Cyber Intelligence Officer

Cyber Intelligence Officers gather information about where threats to information technology (IT) systems come from. They will use digital resources to gather information and evidence. Use computer forensics to identify attackers and their methods, analyse threats to major security systems. Monitor new threats and assess their impact.

### What does the job involve?

Cyber intelligence analysts usually work for the government or corporations or as independent contractors. These professionals leverage their background in technology, science, mathematics and computer programming to impede criminals from accessing proprietary data.

Cyber intelligence analysts utilize threat intelligence to mitigate any potential data threats and defend data. Moreover, they compile reports that identify ways for their organizations to pinpoint and prepare for potential threats.

Cyber intelligence analysts must also have the expertise to identify an organization's security vulnerabilities and pinpoint indicators of compromise (IOC) such as suspicious IP addresses, URLs, email addresses and attachments, registry keys and filenames. These IOCs could signify malware attacks, phishing attempts or attacks from external hosts.

### Routes and choices while at school:

You will need to try to get at least five GCSEs at grades 4 or C or better, or equivalent qualifications. These should include English, maths and science. Other relevant subjects include computing and business studies.



### Skills You'll need:

**Analytical skills:** Cyber intelligence analysts need analytical skills to identify data breaches or bad actors who are manipulating operating systems and destroying the functionality of a business.

**Technical skills:** Cyber intelligence analysts should have a background in technology, mathematics, statistics, computer engineering, digital forensics or computer science.

**Communication skills:** Cyber intelligence analysts must be able to communicate with executives, CTOs (chief technology officers) and IT departments to warn of possible risks to data and promote plans to mitigate those risks.

**Organizational skills:** Organizational skills are vital to the success of effective cyber intelligence analysts as they identify new trends in cyber crime.



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### How to get into this role:

You can get into this job through:

- a university course
- an apprenticeship
- working towards this role
- a graduate training scheme

### Apprenticeship

You could do an apprenticeship like:

cyber security technologist higher apprenticeship  
cyber security technical professional degree apprenticeship  
GCHQ also runs a [cyber security degree apprenticeship](#).

### Entry requirements

You'll usually need:

4 or 5 GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (A\* to C) and A levels, or equivalent, for a higher or degree apprenticeship

### Work

You could start work with an IT security firm, for example as a support technician after doing GCSEs or A levels, then work your way up while studying for further qualifications on the job.

### Other Routes

If you have a degree or relevant work experience, you could apply for the [MI5 Intelligence and Data Analyst Development Programme](#).

### Further information

You can find out more about working in digital security from the [National Cyber Security Centre](#), [Security Service MI5](#) and the [UK Cyber Security Council](#).

If you are under 17 [Cyberfirst](#) has a programme of activities including:

- Apprenticeships
- Bursaries
- Competitions
- Courses



### Career path and progression

With experience, you could become a specialised cyber security lead and then head of cyber security.

You could also work as a freelance security contractor.

### Rates of Pay

Starting salaries are usually around £25,000 to £35,000. This rises to around £40,000 with first promotion and more with a number of years experience.