

The Triad of Success: Education, Experience, and Networking in Shaping Your Career

Wade Wells

Wade Wells - WadingThruLogs

8 Years of Sec Ops(Threat Hunting, Threat Intel, Detection Engineering).

MS - Cybersecurity, GCFA, GMON, Dave Kennedy's Personal Security

BSides San Diego Board , Talkin' Bout News Regular, BHIS Community Leader



Summary

- Education, Experience, Networking
- Improving one's career and/or chances of getting a job
- How to improve your "Proof of Competence"
- Everything is subjective to your situation



Mentoring

- Known known, Known unknowns, Unknown Unknown
- What Certs?
- What tools do I need to know?
- A degree/bootcamp ?
- What is will get me a job?

Proof Of Competence



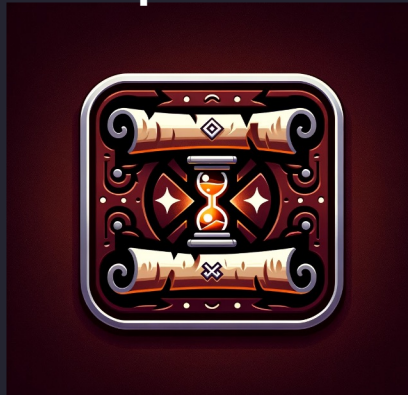
Triad of Success



Education



Experience



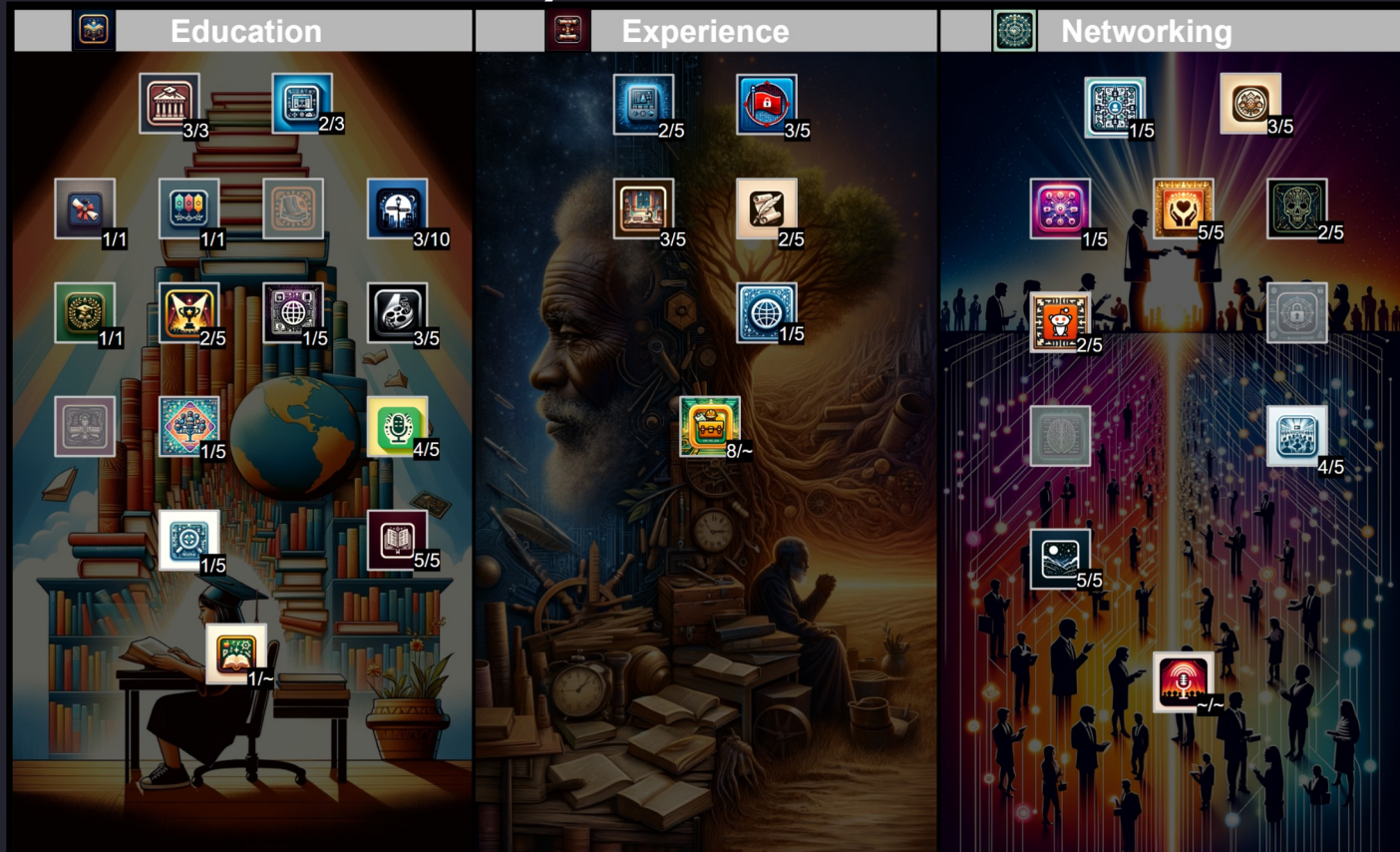
Network



Career Skill Tree



My Skill Tree



Education < Experience < Networking





- Traditional school vs “Trade”
 - Degree Vs Cert Vs Bootcamp/Online courses
 - Understand your Goal
 - TIME REQUIRED
 - Reputation of Provider
- How to decide what to do
- Set Dates
- Take Notes (Digital if possible)
- Transform Education to Experiences or Networking





Street Smarts

- Films & Tv , Podcast, Books
- “Fun and learning” while also reinforcing
- Good talking points
- Ways to branch out



Examples:

Hackers, War Games, Sneakers, Who Am I, Live Free or Die Hard

Mr. Robot, CYBERWAR, Silicon Valley

Darknet Dairies, Click Here, CyberWire Daily, Talkin about the News

Sandworm, Tracers In the Dark, The Cuckoo's Egg

Ohio State Cyber Canon





Experience

- Shaping past experience
- CTS
- Write ups/blogs
- Code Repo
- Build it yourself



Experience

Online Labs



CTF

Personal
Lab



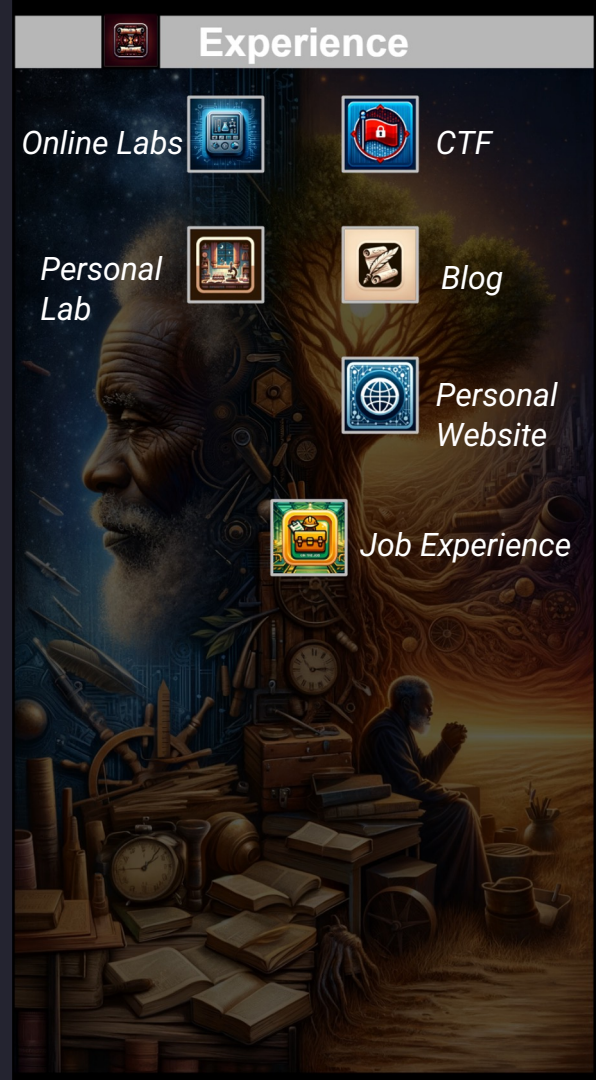
Blog



Personal
Website



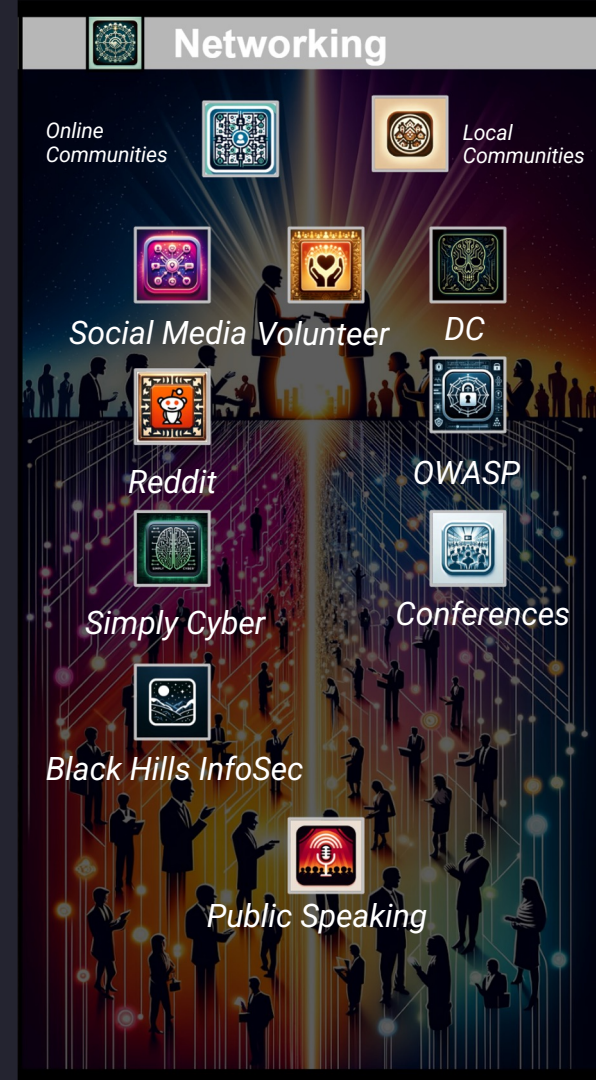
Job Experience





Networking

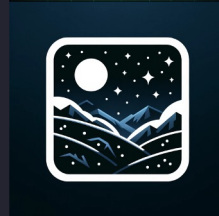
- Strongest way to get a job
- Virtual Vs Local
- Social Media
- Speaking and Cons





Online Communities

- Harder to create connections
- Easier to access, participate, and scope
- Almost too many
- A place where failing is ok



Examples:

BlackHills Infosec -

<https://discord.gg/bhis>

Null: 404 Cyber Security -

<https://discord.gg/e7wf2Bwj>

Antisyphon Training -

<https://discord.gg/antisyphon>

Threat Hunter Community -

<https://discord.gg/threathunter>

Simply Cyber -

<https://discord.gg/eNnUMpg3>

reddit.com/r/cybersecurity/

reddit.com/r/netsecstudents/

reddit.com/r/AskNetsec/

reddit.com/r/SecurityCareerAdvice/



Local Communities

- Go to meet people
- Meetups.com
- DC(Area Code) - DC858
OWASP (City Name) - OWASP San Diego
- Local Colleges
- Ask experts in your area



Cyber Networking In San Diego
+ Add Property - Add New Space - No Change Caves

Resources

OWASP
<https://www.meetup.com/open-web-application-security-project-san-diego-owasp-sd/>

Wicys
<https://www.wicys.org/wicys-san-diego/>
<https://sites.google.com/wicys.org/wicys-san-diego/home>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/wicysd/>

ISACA
<https://isaca-sd.org>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/isaca-san-diego/>
https://twitter.com/isaca_sd

ISC2
<https://isc2-san-diego-chapter.org/>
<https://twitter.com/ISC2SD>

ISSA
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/san-diego-issa/>
<https://www.sdisa.org/>

Cloud Security Alliance
<https://www.meetup.com/cloud-security-alliance-san-diego/>

Defcon Group
<https://twitter.com/DC858>
<https://www.dc858.org/>

BSides San Diego
<https://www.bsidesd.org>
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/bsidesd/>
<https://twitter.com/bsidesSD>

San Diego Cyber Group
<https://www.meetup.com/san-diego-cyber-meetup/>

Cyber Security for Automated Processes and Control Systems
<https://www.meetup.com/san-diego-cyber-security-for-control-systems/>

San Diego CISO Round Table
<https://www.sdcisroundtable.com/>

InfraGard San Diego
<https://www.infragardsd.org/>

IT & Security

Google Cloud San Diego Community Meetup
<https://www.meetup.com/google-cloud-san-diego/events/297199615/>
<https://events.c2cglobal.com/events/details/c2c-events-san-diego-presents-2pa-ther-google-cloud-san-diego-community-meetup-2023-12-07/>

San Diego Tech Coffee
<https://www.meetup.com/sandiego-tech-coffee/>

Local Streamers

Null404
<https://www.null404.org/>

Brakesec
<https://www.brakeingsecurity.com/>
<https://www.twitch.tv/brakesec>

Examples

HairCutFish

Whitecyberduck

Graham Helton



Haircutfish

Associate Customer Support Specialist /
Google IT Support Professional
Certificate | Top 1% on TryHackMe |
Aspiring SOC Analyst

HOME

CATEGORIES

TAGS

ARCHIVES

ABOUT



whitecyberduck's Blog

Whitecyberduck

Six Things I Wish I Knew for the OSCP

Windows & Linux Hashing Guide for n00bs

Useful Cybersecurity Websites

My Favorite Web App Penetration Extension - Firefox Containers

whoami

Ayub Yusuf (he/him)

LinkedIn
Twitter

Certifications

- OffSec Certified Professional (OSCP)
- GIAC Penetration Tester Certification (GPEN)
- GIAC Cloud Threat Detection (GCTD)
- GIAC Critical Controls Certification (GCCP)
- GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA)
- GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH)
- GIAC Security Essentials Certification (GSEC)

Notable CTF Accomplishments (Top 10 finishes)

- Hack Red Con 2023 CTF (1st place **Black Badge**)
- Enterprise Penetration Testing August 2023 CTF (1st place **Challenge Coin**)
- HackSpaceCon 2023 CTF (2nd place)
- Way West 2023 CTF (2nd place)
- Cloud Security Threat Detection November 2022 CTF (3rd place **Challenge Coin**)
- Deadwood 2022 CTF (6th place)
- SANS NetWars Global Traversal 2022 (6th place)
- ISC (B) ThreatVision 2023 CTF (7th place)
- HijackifyCon 2021 CTF (8th place)

Interviews

- Your Cyber Path EP 89: Getting My First Job in Cybersecurity with Ayub Yusuf

Blog Posts

- My Favorite Web App Penetration Extension - Firefox Containers
- Useful Cybersecurity Websites
- Windows & Linux Hashing Guide for n00bs
- Six Things I Wish I Knew for the OSCP
- Why I Left on Full Linux 2020-21

Books

- The Chicken's Egg: Tracking a Spy Through the Maze of Computer Espionage by Cliff Stoll
- Countdown to Zero Day: Stuxnet and the Launch of the World's First Digital Weapon by Kim Zetter

Courses

- Active Defense & Cyber Deception w/ John Strand
- Advanced Network Threat Hunting w/ Chris Brecken
- Binary Exploitation: An Oral History w/ TurboSec
- Breaching the Cloud w/ Brian Ballock
- OSINT Web Programming with Python and JavaScript w/ Brian Yu (in progress)
- Cyber Threat Hunting Lvl 1 w/ Chris Brecken
- Effective Information Security Meeting w/ Chris Sanders
- Enterprise Attack: Initial Actions w/ Steve Borch (in progress)
- External Portlet Playback by Heath Adams
- FRSocurs CISP Mentor Program (in progress)
- INE Azure PenTesting by Steve Pergey
- INE Cloud Fundamentals by Tracy Wallace
- INE Penetration Testing Student by Lukasz Mikula
- Intro to Reverse Engineering by Randy Pargman & Josh Galloway
- Introduction to PCI w/ Nathan Swainery
- Linux 101 by Brent Ederidge
- Linux Command Line Dp8 w/ Ho Pomeroy
- Mobile Application Penetration Testing w/ Aaron Watson (in progress)
- Modern WebApp PenTesting w/ BB King
- Next Level OSINT w/ Michael Khan
- OSINT Fundamentals by Heath Adams
- OWASP Top 10 w/ Kevin Johnson

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Ayub Yusuf (he/him)

Certifications

Notable CTF Accomplishments (Top 10 finishes)

Interviews

Blog Posts

Books

Courses

Graham Helton

Blog / Tips / Archive / Other / RSS

Graham Helton

I spend a lot of of time thinking about the security of systems in both offensive and defensive ways. I use this site to share some of those thoughts.

Job Experience

- Red Team Specialist @ Google - Present
- Founder @ Low Orbit Security - Present
- Investigator & Course Author (Practical #Hacking Assessments) @ HON Security
- Penetration Tester @ RiskBounty
- Junior-Essent-Sytem-Engineer
- Cyber-Security-Researcher
- IT-Intern
- Bookkeeper
- Grocery-store-bagger

Certifications

- SANS - GIAC Network Forensic Analyst (NFA)
- SANS - GIAC Certified Project Manager (GCPM)
- SANS - GIAC Exploit Researcher and Advanced Penetration Tester (GEAPT)
- SANS - GIAC Certified Enterprise Defender (GED)
- SANS - GIAC Defensible Security Architect (GDSA)
- SANS - GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCIA)
- SANS - GIAC Python Coder (GPC)
- SANS - GIAC Strategic Planning, Policy, and Leadership (SPPL)
- SANS - GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH)
- SANS - GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)
- AdvancedSecurity Certified Professional Penetration Tester (ACPPv2)
- AdvancedSecurity Junior Penetration Tester (AJPT)
- CompTIA Security+
- CompTIA Linux+
- CompTIA Network+
- CompTIA A+
- CompTIA Projects

Completed Training

- AntiSyphon - Breaching The Cloud
- AntiSyphon - Subverters Under Siege
- AntiSyphon - Active Defense & Cyber Deception

Conference Talks

- Brides Atlanta - Human Memory Management: Techniques for actionable security research
- Wild West Hackin' Fest - A Tale Of Two Strands

Education

- Bachelors of Science in Information Security Engineering (SANS Technology Institute) - Current
- Bachelors of Science in Cybersecurity (University of North Georgia)

Final Thoughts

- Cross Skill Tree
- Understand your limits
- Fail often
- Find others
- Demonstrate Drive & Passion



Bonus Recommendations

- Second Monitor
- Craigslist
- Have a “listener” and a “Talker”
- Keep a win’s list



The End

Resources: bit.ly/TOS_Links

linkedin.com/in/wadingthrulogs/

twitter.com/WadingThruLogs

Email : Wade@nowade.io

Special Thanks: Graham Helton

