Reasons to Become CISSP Certified
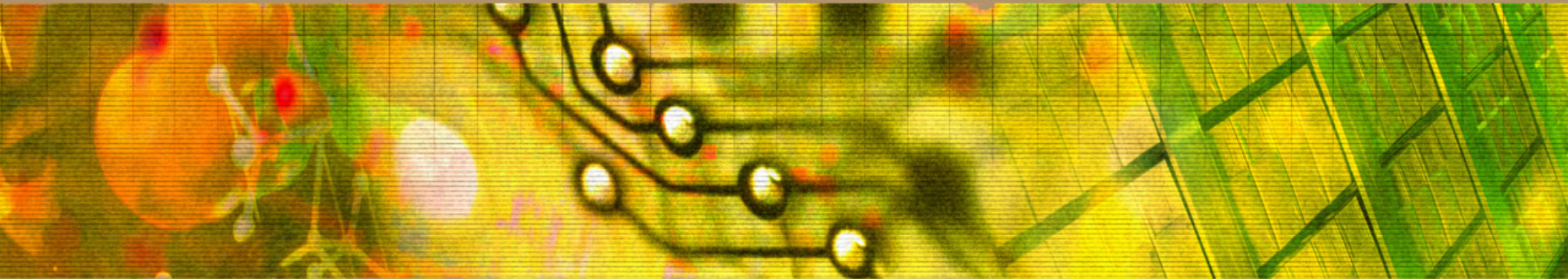
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ITaP
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AT PURDUE

- Certification review

- Organizational needs

- Individual needs
  - Get paid more!
  - See the world!

- CISSP requirements

- Common Body of Knowledge Areas

- Study Suggestions

- Multiple types of certification available:
  - Professional
  - Vendor
  - Technical

- Each type provides a different focus

- The one right for you depends on:
  - Your career objectives
  - Your time available to seek certification
  - Your (or your employer's) budget

- Understand a common body of knowledge

- Previous education and/or work experience

- Demonstrate a level of understanding

- Certification time period

- Re-certification procedures

- Reinstatement

- Dues, Fees, or Memberships

- Body of Knowledge encompasses the majority of the field

- Managed by a non-profit organization

- Exam requires NDA

- Requires commitment to code of ethics

- Requires endorsement and may involve an audit

- Examples:
  - $(ISC)^2$ CISSP
  - ISACA CISA and CISM

Organizational Needs

- Risk Management
  - Regulatory requirements (GLBA, HIPAA, SOX, FERPA, FISMA, DoD Directive 8570.1, etc)
  - Insurance requirements
  - Evolving and emerging security threats require staff with new skills and knowledge

- Human Resources
  - Independent evaluation of knowledge and skills
  - Measurable level of knowledge
  - Defined skill set
  - Makes resume searching easier

- ## Organizational Marketing
  - Better visibility to customers that need security expertise and services
  - Easier to sell services with certified employees
  - Customers may not know the acronyms, but they always seem impressed by them

- ## Quality Employees
  - Generalists (breadth of knowledge)
  - Specialists (depth of knowledge)

- Surveys by professional organizations and market research firms indicated certified employees earn more (IDC, SANS)
  - CISSP median income: $95,155 (SANS)
  - Salary increases outpacing other IT fields (IDC)

- Internally, your certification may lead to a promotion or raise, your mileage may vary

- Great demand for certified individuals around the world and in most industries

- More job postings include requirements for (or desire to obtain) certification

- Because information security is important throughout an organization, your job may evolve

- Significant costs are involved
  - CISSP: $500 (exam) $85 (yearly dues)
  - Professional training courses > $1500

- Time involved to prepare for exams
  - CISSP: I studied 2 hours/day for 4 months
  - Professional training courses 5 days or longer

- May not be seen as beneficial to current employer or management

- Commit to Code of Ethics

- Have required work experience (as of 1 Oct)
  - five years relevant security work –– OR ––
  - four years work + college degree

- Pass the Examination
  - 250 multiple choice questions; Six hours

- Continuing Professional Education
  - 120 credits per three year certification period

- Pay yearly maintenance fee

- Access Control Systems and Methodology

- Application and Systems Development Security

- Business Continuity Planning and Disaster Recovery Planning

- Cryptography

- Law, Investigation, and Ethics

- Operations Security

- Physical Security

- Security Architecture

- Security Management Practices

- Telecommunications and Networking Security

- Professional training
  - Focused, expensive, time-consuming

- Self study
  - Read, read, read
  - Find and use collection of sample questions

- Group study
  - Find a group of people that will take the test about the same time
  - Set an agenda; keep to a schedule

- Sign up for the test today!
  - A deadline is a great motivator for study
  - Schedule it out no more than 6 months, if possible

- Collect your study materials
  - Build a library of documents in the subject areas

- Set time aside every day for study
  - Avoid taking too much time off between study

- Group study can be helpful for some

- Find a CISSP to help mentor

In summary...

- Certification will require significant effort on your part to master the subject areas

- Certification can be very beneficial to your career

- Your certification can be beneficial to your employer too

References

- IDC, 2006 Information Security Workforce Study, October 2006.

- SANS, The SANS 2005 Information Security Salary & Career Advancement Survey, January 2006.

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- Harold F. Tipton, Kevin Henry, Official (ISC)[2] Guide to the CISSP CBK, Auerbach, November 2006.