Career planner

Fill this in before you do anything else — certainly before you spend money on a certification. Almost every decision that follows depends on these answers. Be honest about the time and budget figures: over-committing to study hours you do not have is the single most common reason career changes stall.

WHERE YOU ARE STARTING FROM

CURRENT ROLE AND LENGTH OF TIME IN IT

EXISTING TECHNICAL CERTIFICATIONS OR QUALIFICATIONS

EXISTING DEGREE (IF ANY)

TARGET CYBERSECURITY ROLE

TARGET SECTOR (FS, GOVERNMENT, CONSULTING, TECH, HEALTHCARE, OTHER)

GEOGRAPHY (LONDON, REGIONAL UK, REMOTE-ONLY)

BUDGET AVAILABLE NEXT 12 MONTHS (£)

REALISTIC STUDY TIME PER WEEK (HOURS)

TARGET DATE TO BE IN FIRST CYBERSECURITY ROLE

HIGHEST PRIORITY CONSTRAINT (COST, TIME, FAMILY, CURRENT JOB STABILITY)

CHOOSING YOUR PATH

- [ ] Path A — SOC and defensive operations. Most accessible from IT support and networking. The most common UK entry point.
- [ ] Path B — Penetration testing and offensive security. Most accessible from software development. Slower to break into than Path A.
- [ ] Path C — GRC, risk and compliance. Most accessible from audit, finance, legal and project management. Often fastest for non-technical changers.
- [ ] Path D — Security architecture. Almost never an entry point. Pursue after three to five years in another path.

PATH CHOSEN, AND WHY

From The Honest Guide to Breaking Into UK Cybersecurity.