Becoming a cybersecurity professional: Where to begin

Dr. Iretioluwa Akerele

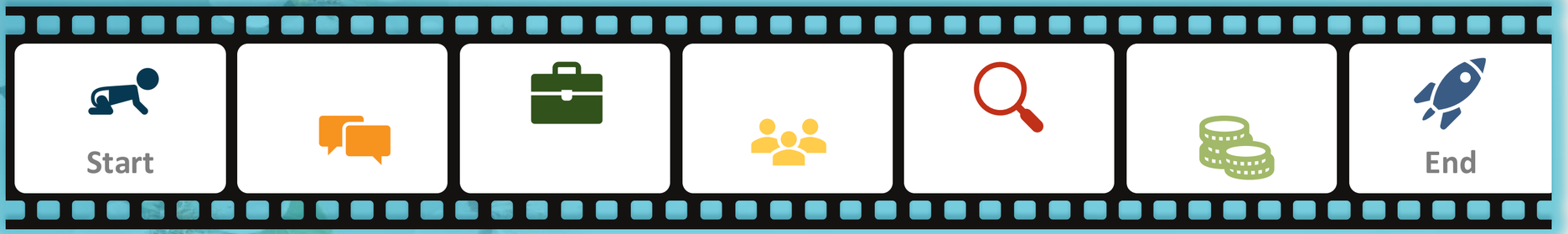
November 15, 2024

Profile spotlight | Dr. Iretioluwa Akerele

- Director, Cybarik (2022).
- Co-founder, Cyblack (2021).

Top 100 Inspirational Women (2023)

Top 20 Most inspiring Women in Cyber (2024)



- Over 10 years of hands-on industry experience.
- PhD, Information Systems Security (2023).
- Advisory Board Member, Cybersafe Foundation

- IFSEC Global Security Influencer (2022)
- ISC2 Global Achievement Award (2023).

Top 25 Cybersecurity Influencer in Africa (2024).

40 under 40 Women Cyber Leaders (2024).

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Dr Iretioluwa Akerele

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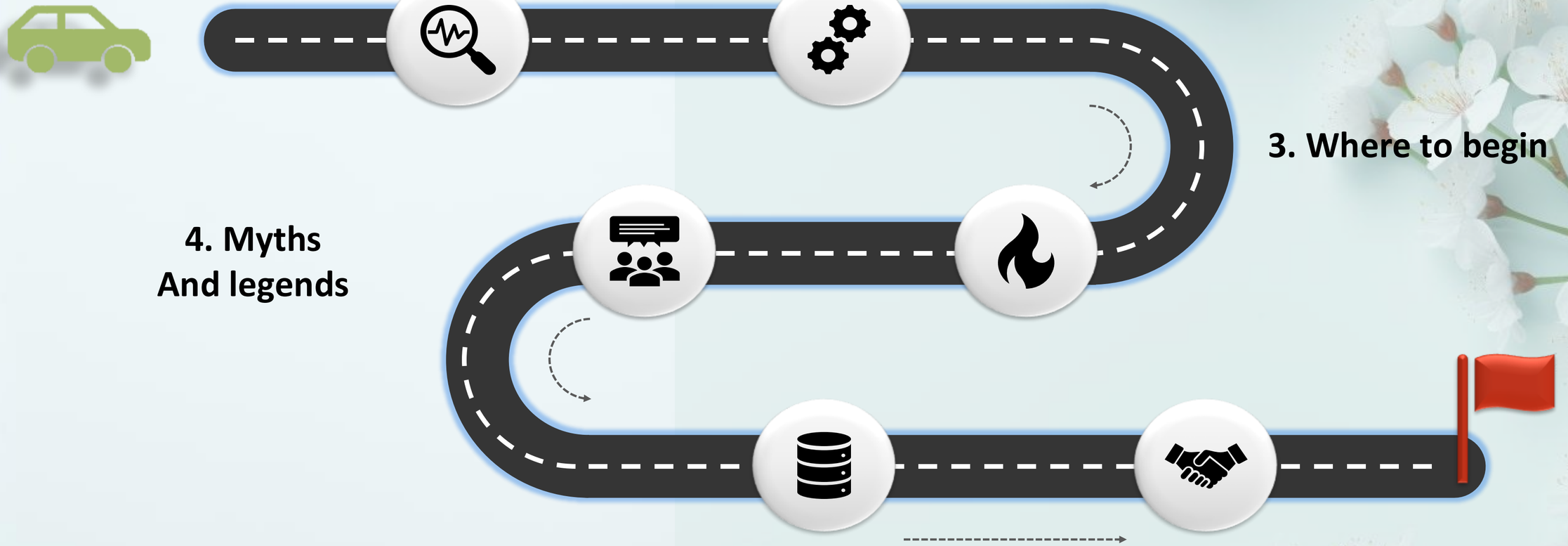
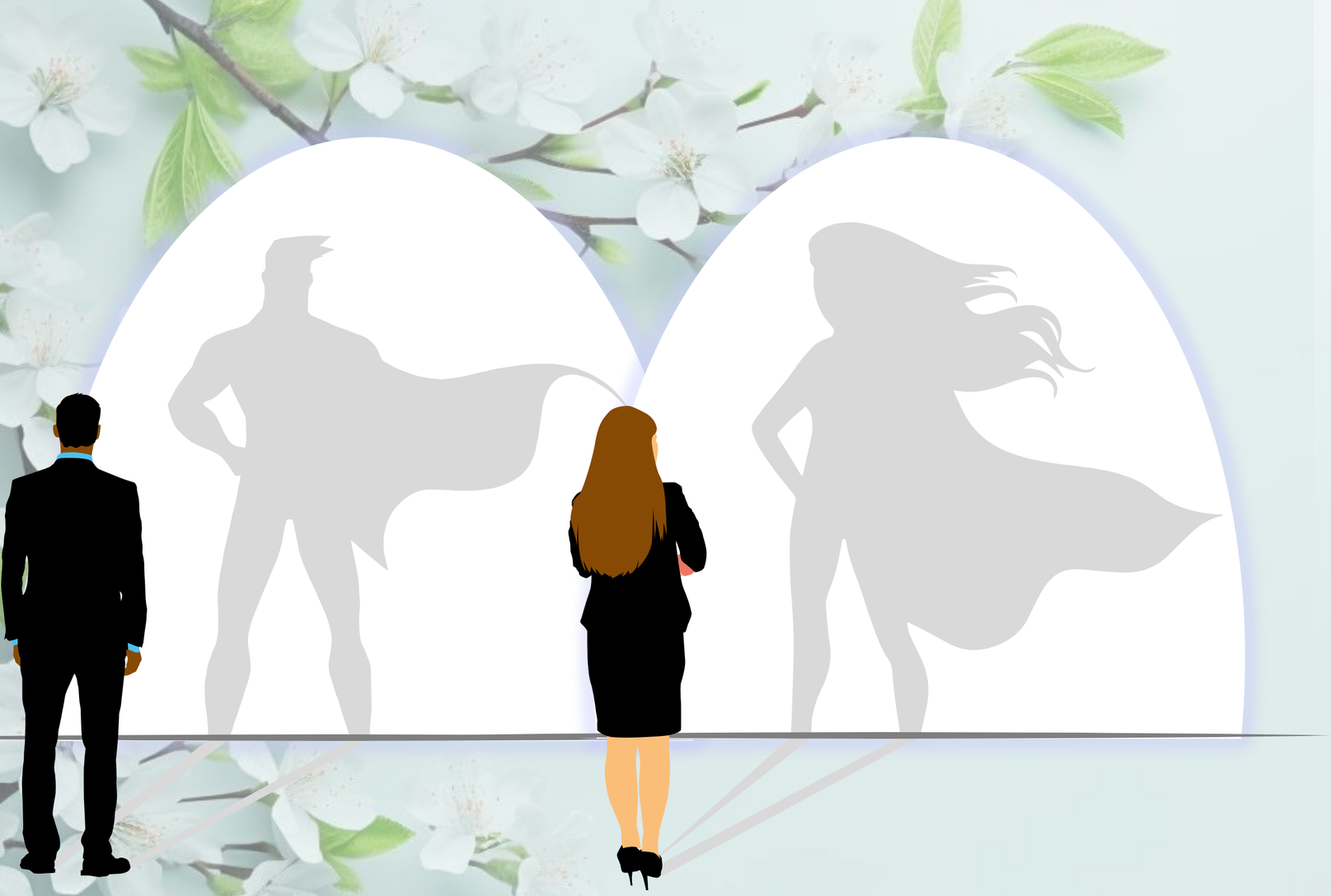
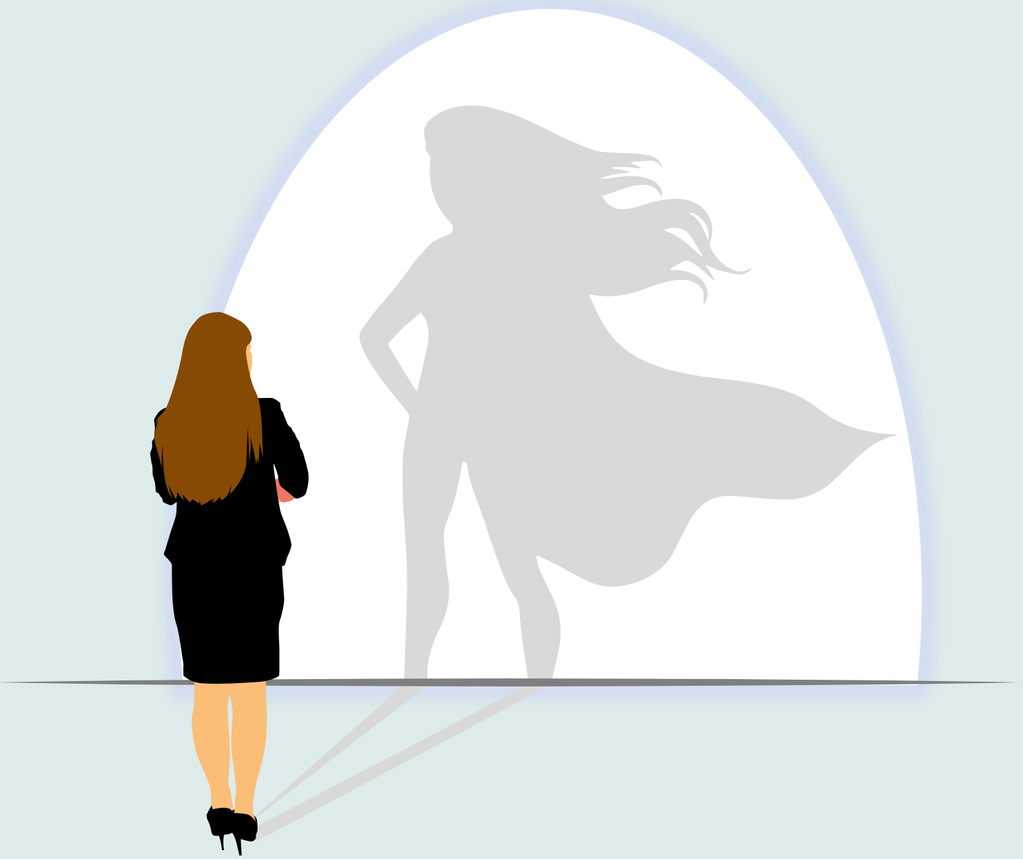




Introduction

Who is a cybersecurity professional?



- A cybersecurity professional is responsible for safeguarding digital systems, networks, and data from unauthorized access, cyber threats, and potential data breaches.
- A cybersecurity professional assesses, mitigates, and manages risks to an organization's digital assets, ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of critical information.

The importance of cybersecurity skills

- Protection against cyber threats
- Regulatory compliance
- Business continuity
- Economic impact and financial protection

- High demand for cybersecurity professionals.
- Future proof skills
- Lucrative salaries and benefits
- Opportunity for continuous learning

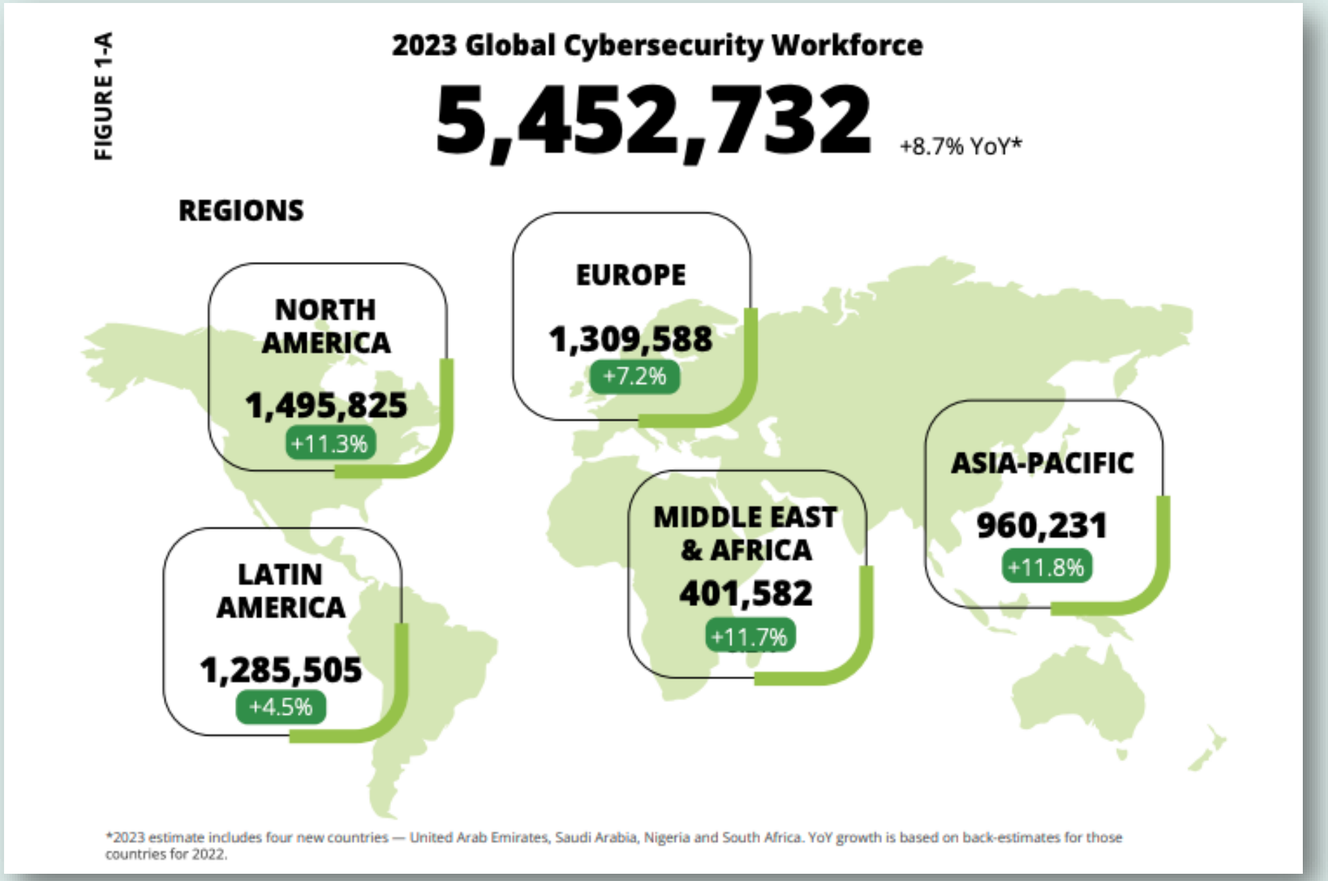
With cyber attacks, it is not a matter of ‘if’ but of ‘when’.

The cybersecurity skills gap

The global cybersecurity market size is forecast to grow to 538.3 billion U.S. dollars by 2030. (Borgeaud, 2023)

The cybersecurity workforce gap as of today is 4 million (Meineke, 2023)

According to the ISC2, the strongest growth in the cybersecurity workforce was in the Middle East / Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, (Smith, 2024)



There is room for you

Cybersecurity Domains

Cybersecurity Domains

- GOVERNANCE RISK AND COMPLIANCE
- SECURITY OPERATIONS CENTER
- ETHICAL HACKER

- INCIDENCE RESPONSE
- DIGITAL FORENSICS
- SECURITY ARCHITECT
- CLOUD SECURITY

- PENETRATION TESTING
- NETWORK SECURITY
- THREAT INTELLIGENCE

The list is inexhaustive

Where to begin

Where to begin

- RESEARCH INTO CYBERSECURITY DOMAINS
- KNOWLEDGE OF IT SYSTEMS/NETWORK BASICS

- USE OF LEARNING PLATFORMS LIKE ‘TRYHACKME’, ‘FORAGE’ ‘CISCO’, ETC
- NETWORKING WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS
- INTERNSHIPS

- ACCELERATED LEARNING THROUGH BOOTCAMPS LIKE CYBARIK
- CYBERSECURITY COMMUNITIES LIKE CYBLACK
- ENTRY LEVEL CERTIFICATIONS LIKE CC FROM ISC2

- STAY ABREAST OF THE LATEST NEWS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN CYBERSECURITY
- VOLUNTEER IN CYBERSECURITY COMMUNITIES
- ENTRY LEVEL ROLES
- RELEVANT CERTIFICATIONS

Platforms

- **TRYHACKME:** HTTPS://TRYHACKME.COM/
- **CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY:** HTTPS://WWW.NETACAD.COM/
- **GOOGLE:** HTTPS://WWW.COURSERA.ORG/PROFESSIONAL-CERTIFICATES/GOOGLE-IT-SUPPORT

Communities

- **DR. IRETI'S PINNED TWEETS:** HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/IRETEEH
- **CYBLACK ACADEMY**
- **CYBARIK ACADEMY**
- **DR. IRETI'S ANNUAL MENTORSHIP GROUP**

Where to begin

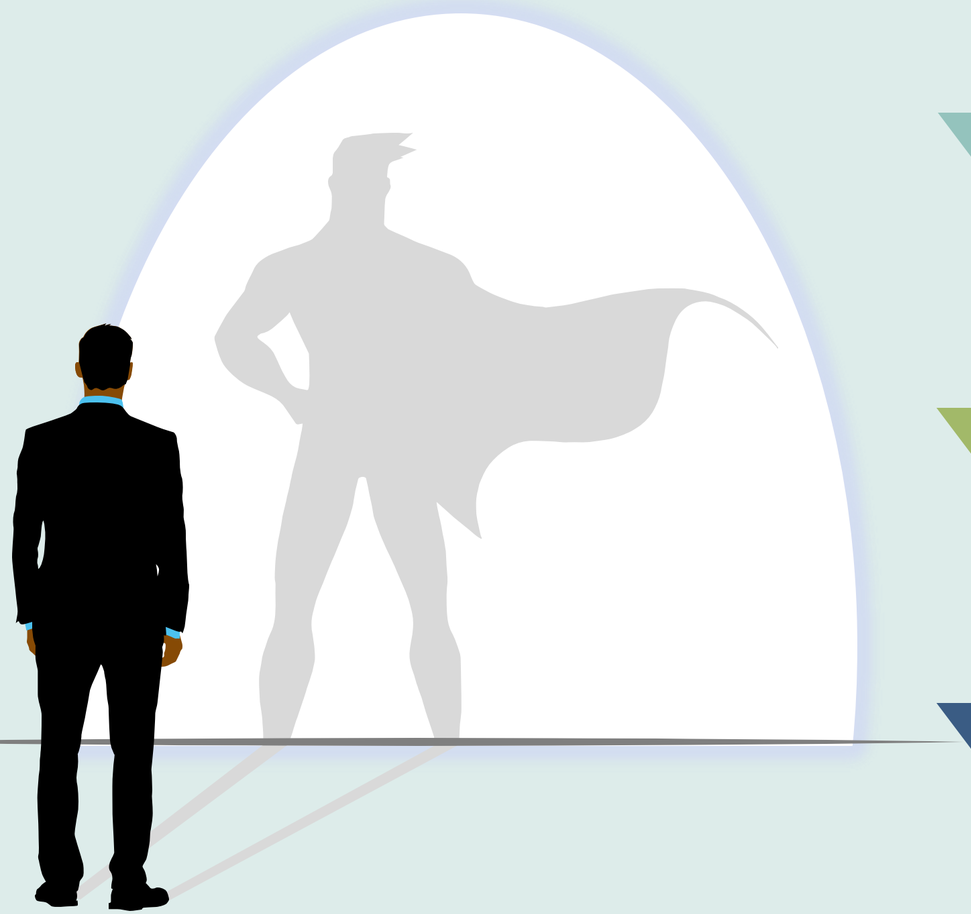
- **FORAGE:** HTTPS://WWW.THEFORAGE.COM/SIMULATIONS/COMMONWEALTH-BANK/INTRO-CYBERSECURITY-RDXL
- **HACKTHEBOX -** HTTPS://LNKD.IN/EJGPHRMI
- **AWS -** HTTPS://LNKD.IN/ENRTS4ZY

- **OTHER PROFESSIONALS ON THE VARIOUS SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM":**
- **CONFIDENCE STAVELEY**
- **CYBERSAFE**
- **MIKE MILLER**

The list is inexhaustive

Myths and legends

Myths and Legends



01 You need knowledge of programming

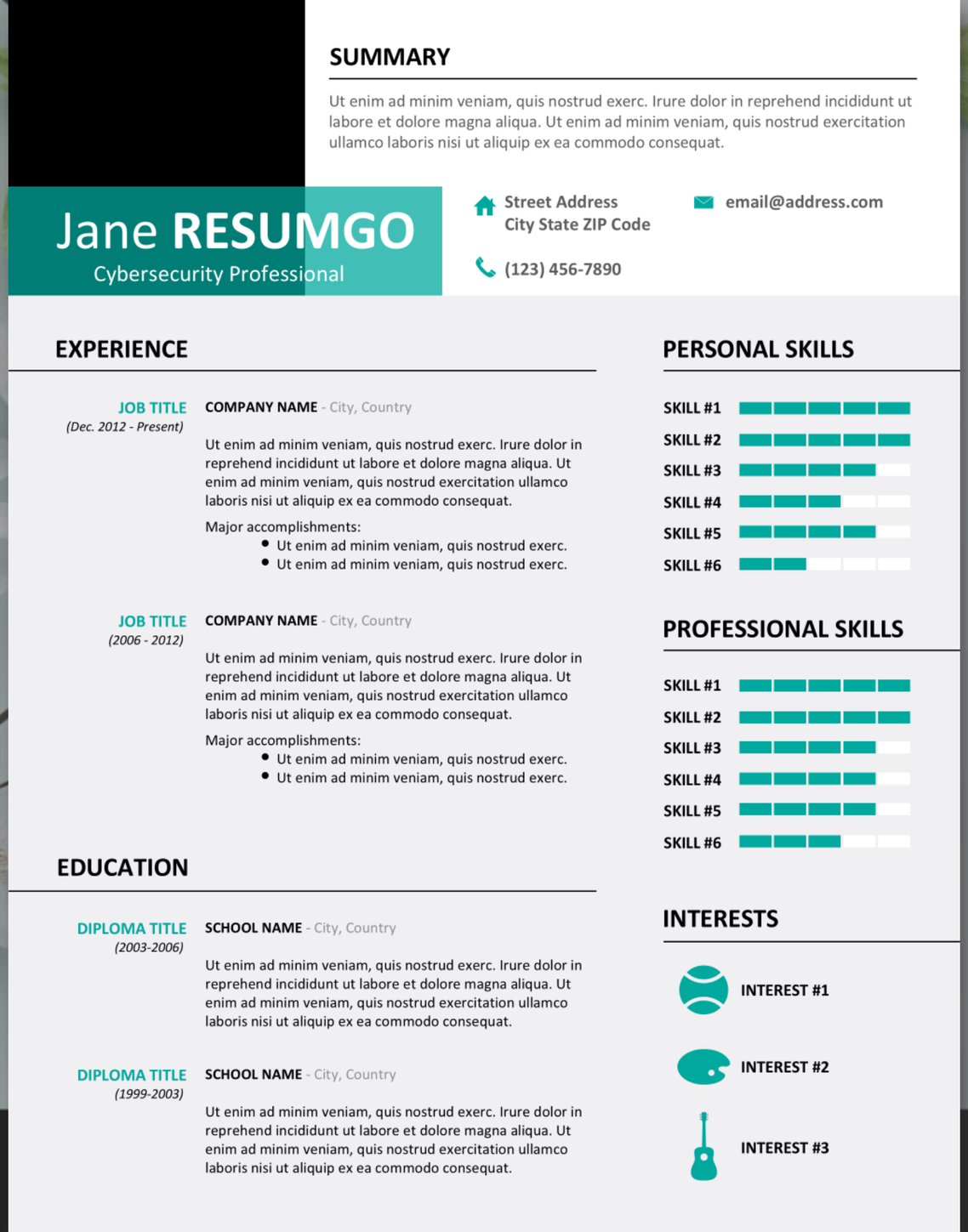
02 It’s a get rich quick scheme

03 It’s for only technical people

04 It’s all about hacking

05 Certifications alone will get you a job

06 You can be an expert in 6 months



SUMMARY

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Jane **RESUMGO**

Cybersecurity Professional

Street Address
City State ZIP Code

email@address.com

(123) 456-7890

EXPERIENCE

JOB TITLE
(Dec. 2012 - Present)

COMPANY NAME - City, Country

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Major accomplishments:

- Ut enim ad minim veniam, quis nostrud exerc.
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JOB TITLE
(2006 - 2012)

COMPANY NAME - City, Country

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Major accomplishments:

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EDUCATION

DIPLOMA TITLE
(2003-2006)

SCHOOL NAME - City, Country

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DIPLOMA TITLE
(1999-2003)

SCHOOL NAME - City, Country

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PERSONAL SKILLS

- SKILL #1
- SKILL #2
- SKILL #3
- SKILL #4
- SKILL #5
- SKILL #6

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

- SKILL #1
- SKILL #2
- SKILL #3
- SKILL #4
- SKILL #5
- SKILL #6

INTERESTS

- INTEREST #1
- INTEREST #2
- INTEREST #3

Skills and Certifications

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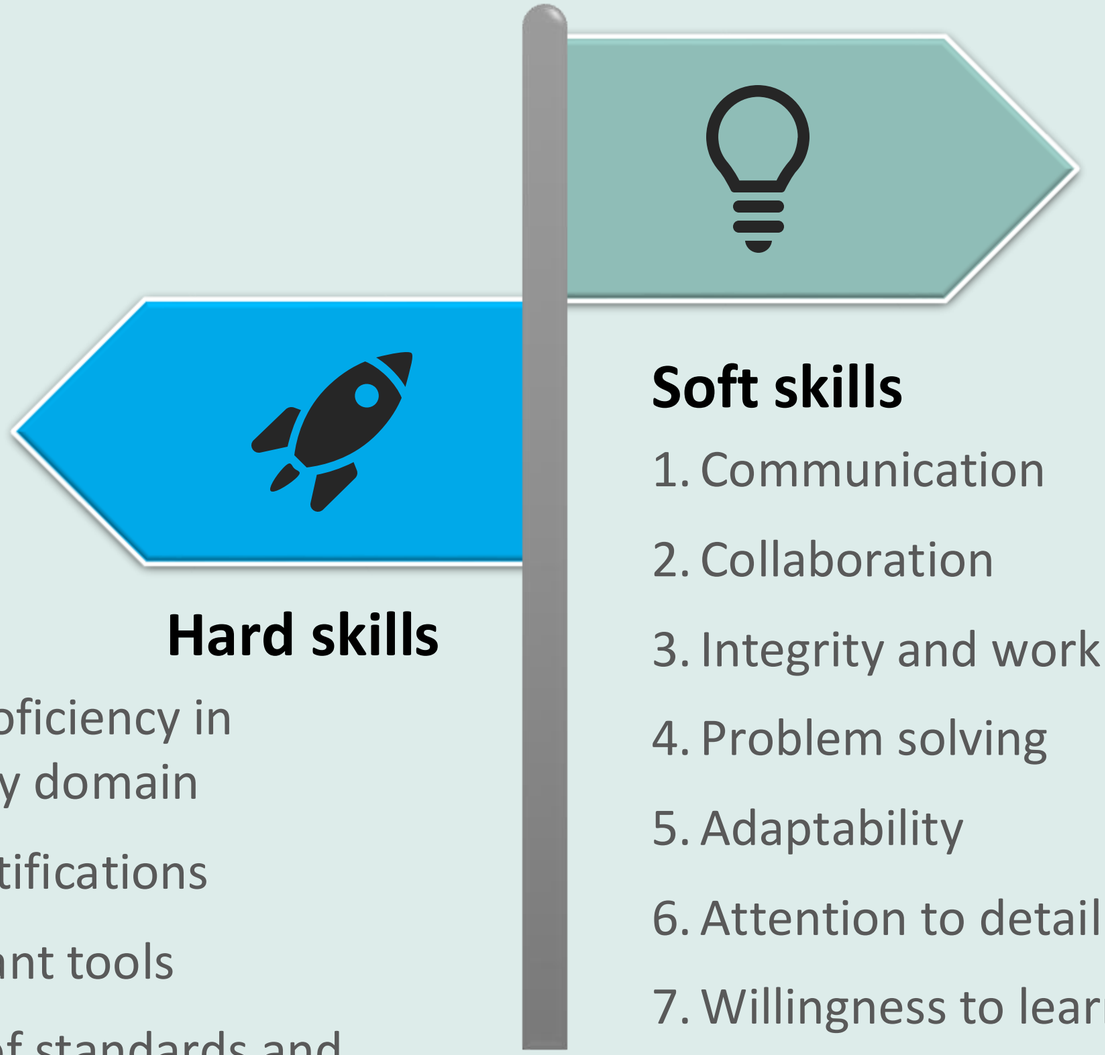

Hard skills

1. Technical proficiency in Cybersecurity domain
2. Relevant certifications
3. Use of relevant tools
4. Knowledge of standards and frameworks
5. Specialised knowledge

Soft skills

1. Communication
2. Collaboration
3. Integrity and work ethics
4. Problem solving
5. Adaptability
6. Attention to detail
7. Willingness to learn continously

Skills and Certifications

1. CompTIA Security+

2. Certified Information Systems Security Professional
3. Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC)
4. Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA).

5. Certified Information Security Manager
6. CompTIA PENTEST+
7. Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP)

8. GIAC Security Operations Certification (GSOC)
9. Certified SOC Analyst (CSA)
10. Certified Information Systems Auditor

11. Certified Information Privacy Professional
12. Certified Information Systems Security Professional — Architecture (CISSP)
13. Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
14. Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

The list is inexhaustive

Conclusion

"A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step“ – Chinese Proverb

You too can get involved today

Thank You for listening

Dr. Iretioluwa Akerele
Co-founder, Cyblack

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