

Positioning Maps

Chart Your Path to a Meaningful Career

Competitive positioning is how you differentiate yourself from other job candidates and create value for your employer. It's about how you carve out a niche in the marketplace. These customized guides, by position title, help you achieve this.

December 2024

Your Guide to Becoming a Cybersecurity Analyst

Are you interested in becoming a Cybersecurity Analyst when you graduate? You are not alone. Many graduates of TRSM are interested in this field and are currently working as a Cybersecurity Analyst within different industries.

This **Positioning Map** identifies the programs you can participate in at TRSM, to help you develop a specific and relevant skill set that will make you far more competitive when applying to part-time and full-time roles.

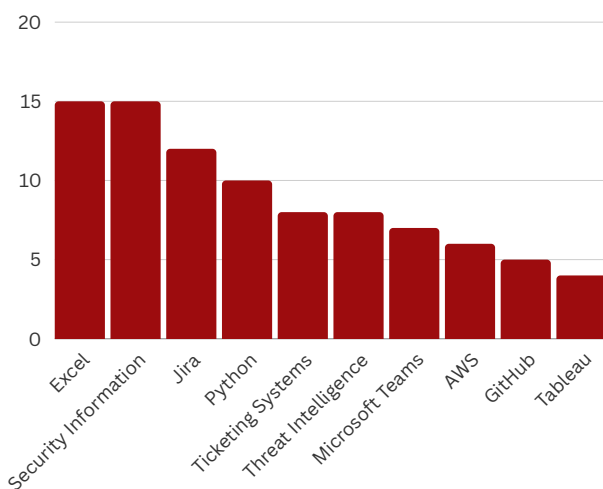
STEP 1 - Understand the Skills Expected of a Cybersecurity Analyst

We analyzed 78 job postings in our job portal, for *Cybersecurity Analyst* roles, for the period September 2017 to November 2024, and identified the top most cited technical and professional skills across these job descriptions.

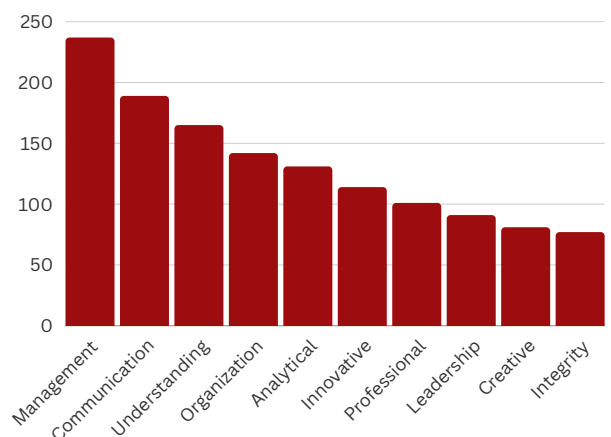
Highlighted below are the skills employers are seeking when recruiting for this role. Note the importance of Excel, Jira, Python, and PowerPoint, in addition to the ability to communicate effectively and analyze a problem.



Top 10 Technical Skills for Cybersecurity Analyst



Top 10 Professional Skills for Cybersecurity Analyst



STEP 2 - Develop a Cybersecurity Analyst Skillset

Program	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Register for Bootcamps: Excel, Tableau, SQL, Python, Agile/Scrum, R, and Microsoft Certification
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attend Prep Programs: Cybersecurity Prep Program, Hub Employer Events
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Join Student Groups: <u>Information Technology Management Student Association</u> , <u>Toronto Metropolitan Data Science Association</u> , <u>TMU & TRSM Student Groups</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Participate in Case Competitions/Conferences: <u>Rogers Cybersecure Catalyst</u> , <u>TRACE</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ted Rogers Co-op: BTM, ENT, HTM, RET, SAF students apply to the Co-op program at the end of 1st year, by June 1. All other Business Management majors apply at the end of 2nd year.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hub Insights reports: <u>Industry Sectors: Cybersecurity</u>

Why Professional Skills Are Important To Employers



Communication Skills

Cybersecurity Analysts must utilize strong communication skills when collaborating with stakeholders to assess security needs and understand expectations. They are essential in conveying complex security concepts clearly to non-technical audiences.



Analytical Skills

Cybersecurity Analysts leverage strong analytical skills when working with security data. They examine and interpret complex data sets to identify vulnerabilities and potential threats. By deriving actionable insights, they help inform security strategies and enhance the organization's overall defense against cyber risks.



Creativity Skills

Cybersecurity Analysts are required to cultivate a creative mindset to their work to implement and initiate solutions for their stakeholders. This imaginative approach empowers Cybersecurity Analysts to clearly convey intricate security findings, allowing them to present insights and in a straightforward manner.



Leadership Skills

Strong leadership is essential for a Cybersecurity Analyst to effectively guide security initiatives, coordinate responses, and meet project timelines and stakeholders expectations. It fosters collaboration and enhances communication which is crucial for maintaining proper cybersecurity practices.



Organizational Skills

Cybersecurity Analysts must manage large volumes of complex data and multiple tasks efficiently to ensure accuracy and meet deadlines. They also need to present intricate security findings clearly, facilitating understanding and action among stakeholders.



Problem Solving Skills

Strong problem-solving skills enable Cybersecurity Analysts to identify stakeholder issues, break them down into manageable components, and develop structured processes for investigation. This approach ensures timely and effective responses to security challenges

STEP 3 - Prepare for the Interview

Typical Interview Questions for a Cybersecurity Analyst Role

Here are some examples of behavioural questions, paired with answers to guide you when preparing for your next interview. Keep in mind interview questions can vary depending on the industry and level of the role.



Tip #1 When answering the interview question about how your motivation and skill development in cybersecurity, focus on personal experiences that sparked your interest. Highlight specific projects, competitions, involvements that illustrated your approach to learning. By keeping it concise and genuine, it shows your dedication to continuous growth in this field.

What motivated you to pursue a career in Cybersecurity, and what steps have you taken to develop your skills in this field?

“

I've always been fascinated by technology and its vulnerabilities I started exploring the field by engaging in hands-on projects and participating in events and prep programs. This experience allowed me to test my skills and learn from real-world challenges. I also make it a point to stay informed about industry trends and emerging threats to continually enhance my knowledge.

”



Tip #2 When answering collaboration-focused interview questions, highlight specific situations where you worked with other teams. Emphasize your communication strategies, such as regular meetings or shared tools. Focus on the positive outcomes showcasing your ability to align goals and achieve results as a team.

Describe a time when you had to work collaboratively with other teams or departments/ How did you ensure effective communication and coordination?

“
In my previous role, I collaborated with multiple departments to implement new security ideas. To ensure effective communication, we held regular meetings and used a shared project management tool to track progress and address concerns. Encouraging open dialogue allowed everyone to share insights and suggestions. This collaborative approach helped us align our goals and successfully complete the project.
”



Tip #3 Highlight any professional networking or events that you have participated in. It showcases your proactive approach. It also demonstrates your commitment to continuous learning and staying informed in the cybersecurity industry which is crucial.

What methods or tools do you use to stay updated with the latest cybersecurity threats and trends?

“
To stay updated on the latest cybersecurity threats and trends, I regularly follow industry blogs and news sites. I also participate in professional networking where experts share their insights and experiences. Additionally, I attend events to learn about emerging technologies and best practices. This approach helps me stay informed and proactive in the cybersecurity world
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What Else Might Appear in a Cybersecurity Analyst Interview?

Case questions in interviews are hypothetical scenarios or business problems that candidates are asked to analyze and solve. They typically assess analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and the ability to structure thoughts logically under pressure. It helps give the hiring manager an opportunity to see how you think about problems and assess your ability to solve them.

What are the Case Questions Structured Like?

The cases you discuss in each of your interviews will be different. Cases can be based on overall strategic issues for an industry, or may focus on very specific questions such as how to handle a threat or how to implement a particular recommendation. Typical examples of problems raised in a case include deciding how a company should react to a new competitor in its monopoly market or determining what attributes a company should look for in seeking a joint venture partner for an unproven new technology. Another type of case, you may be asked to estimate the impact a cyber attack has on a particular industry.

Quick Tip!

- Use the STAR method to answer behavioural questions based on your own experiences to showcase your knowledge and capabilities. Review the [Behavioural Interviews Hub Insights Report](#)
- Remember to tailor your responses to your own experiences and the specific company you're interviewing with.

STEP 4 - Update LinkedIn and Resume - and Apply

Now that you have better positioned yourself for this role, make sure to update your LinkedIn profile, your resume and cover letter to reflect how aligned you now are with this type of role.

Check out these Hub Insights resources for best practices on doing just this!

1. [LinkedIn](#)
2. [Resumes, Cover Letters](#)
3. [Interview Tips: Behavioural Interviews, Behavioural Interviews In-depth](#)

Some of the Top Employers Hiring Cybersecurity Analysts

There are hundreds of employers who hire Cybersecurity Analysts every year, but based on our data in the Co-op job portal, some are:



Meet a TRSM Alumni



Taha Shahid is a graduate of the Business Technology Management Co-op program at Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU), earning his degree with distinction in 2022. He was also a member of the TRSM Top 200 Program during his final two years. Initially a science major at McMaster University, Taha transferred to TMU in 2017, drawn by the burgeoning field of technology and the program's integrated co-op work terms, which offered valuable hands-on experience prior to graduation. Taha's enduring passion for cybersecurity is evident from his diverse experiences detailed below.



Senior Consultant,
Deloitte

TAHA SHAHID

During his co-op placements, Taha primarily worked in the public sector. He contributed to the City of Brampton's SmartCity team, leveraging technology to streamline services for constituents. Additionally, he collaborated with the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) on their Identity and Access Management (IAM) team. In this role, Taha played a crucial part in enhancing CBSA's IAM program by working with the internal team to identify necessary safeguards and security practices for the new system. He also consulted for FrontDesk, a Danish company that partners with municipal governments to manage service queues. These roles demanded a strong understanding of privacy and security, as well as excellent coordination skills.

Currently, Taha is a Senior Consultant at Deloitte, where he specializes in managing risks associated with third-party relationships for clients. His daily responsibilities include serving as a functional resource on agile projects, facilitating communication between stakeholders and developers to deliver robust and secure systems. Taha also leads the testing team, ensuring comprehensive testing is conducted and documented to meet project completion standards. Success in these roles requires meticulous attention to detail, strong communication abilities, and adept problem-solving skills.



Learn More for Free



Learn how to improve your Cybersecurity skills through the courses offered by the Catalyst Program. [Click here to learn more.](#)



Unlock your potential on TryHackMe with a range of powerful tools designed to enhance your cybersecurity skills and tackle real-world challenges. [Read more here.](#)



Learn about growth sectors, skills employers are seeking, and how to prepare for a competitive marketplace. [Access Hub Insights reports here.](#)

Visit the Business Career Hub

Employer Events

The BCH hosts several employer events to prepare you for your professional career. Refer to your weekly BCH Careers Newsletter for a list of upcoming [events](#).

Bootcamps/Prep Programs

Advance your technical, earn digital badges, and gain an advantage in today's workforce with Power BI, Power of Excel, Python, R, SQL, and Tableau. [Click here to register.](#)

Coaching & Mock Interview

For career coaching, interview prep and more, [schedule a 1:1 appointment](#) with a Career Consultant or a Co-op Coordinator.



Co-op Consultant Contributor Joshua Go

Joshua, the Co-op Coordinator for Law & Business, Hospitality and Tourism, Retail Management. Brings five years of recruitment experience from the Public, Private and Not for Profit sectors. Sharing his industry knowledge and advice to his students to achieve personal and professional success.



Student Contributor Jakhishan Pandurankan

Jakhishan is Business Technology Management student actively engaged in a Co-op program, he is currently honing his skills as a Data Analyst at the Business Career Hub. He is passionate about gaining valuable experience, he aims to advance his career in the Information Technology Management sector.