

Obama assigns \$100 million to fund cybersecurity training programs

March 11, 2015 by [Melanie Watson](#) [Leave a Comment](#)



In a bid to bolster the high-tech workforce and meet the cybersecurity skills shortage, President Obama presented TechHire this week. The [initiative](#) will serve unemployed and low-skilled workers, offering \$100million in grants. The program is designed to provide employers with skilled high-tech professionals, and individuals with the training and know-how to get higher-paying, more secure jobs.

The Obama administration sees TechHire as fast-track training that gives people the skills they need to fill entry-level IT and cybersecurity jobs through “coding boot camps” and online courses.

President Obama said in a speech Monday when he unveiled TechHire:

“When these jobs go unfilled, it’s a missed opportunity for the workers, but it’s also a missed opportunity for your city, your community, your county, your state and our nation [...] And here’s something else: If we’re not producing enough tech workers, over time that’s going to threaten our leadership and global innovation, which is the bread and butter of the 21st century economy.”

President Obama’s proposal has been met with huge optimism as it is building on existing programs that are already working, and major employers (including Bank of America, Capital One, and Christiana Care Health Systems) are already involved.

Last year, the IT security workforce in the United States grew by 42 percent, with virtually no [unemployment](#).

Professional certification

Cybersecurity professionals who want to demonstrate their skills and knowledge, and advance their careers, need industry-recognized professional qualifications.

IT Governance's training courses provide a structured learning path from Foundation to Advanced level in the international cybersecurity standard, [ISO 27001](#). Our program of [professional certification training courses](#) offers delegates exam preparation for some of the most prestigious qualifications available to cybersecurity professionals, with certifications from IBITGQ.

Now, thanks to our [Live Online training courses](#), anyone in the US – and, indeed, anyone in the world – can attend an expert-led training course without needing to incur the costs and inconveniences associated with classroom-based training courses.

If you want to take advantage of the thousands of unfilled cybersecurity jobs in the US, [click here for more information about IT Governance's training courses >>](#)

Government announces new measures to tackle cyber security skills shortage

March 12, 2015 by [Neil Ford](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude has announced a number of **initiatives** aimed at encouraging young people into a career in cyber security, "including new apprenticeships, more civil service cyber specialists and offering cyber security training in further and higher education."

As cyber threats increase, attacks become more common and more severe, and public awareness of cyber risks grows, businesses are taking greater measures to protect their information. Inevitably, this new interest in in cyber security has led to a demand for cyber security professionals that far outstrips supply.

Cisco's **2014 Annual Security Report (CASR)** projected a global shortage of between 500,000 and 1,000,000 IT security professionals in the foreseeable future.

Long-term strategy

The government's National Cyber Security Programme is therefore backing new initiatives to "broaden entry routes into the profession", including:

- A new cyber strand to the civil service fast track apprenticeship scheme.
- New cyber specialist apprenticeships to train young people in key skills.
- Increasing the Civil Service Digital & Technology Fast Stream intake from 70 to 80.
- Making cyber security an "integral feature of all computing and digital further education qualifications at levels 3 and 4".
- Mandatory cyber security education for all undergraduate courses accredited by the Institution of Engineering and Technology.
- A cyber security option for the National Citizen Service.

Mr Maude said: "We need a supply of cyber-security experts for the future, so we are taking a series of further steps to attract the most gifted young people to this fast-moving area of technology."

Short-term opportunities

While these measures will address the long-term shortage of skilled security professionals, there remains a noticeable dearth of appropriately qualified talent today, as reflected in the current job market. Employment within the technology sector is [forecast by recruitment firm Robert Half](#) to grow at nearly five times the national average in 2015; and salaries are rising by an inflation-beating average of 4% year-on-year. PwC's [2014 Annual Global CEO Survey](#) found that "62% of technology CEOs plan to increase hiring [in 2015] compared to 50% of the total sample."

If you want to take advantage of the opportunities in this new field, you need training and qualifications. But which?

Professional certification

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