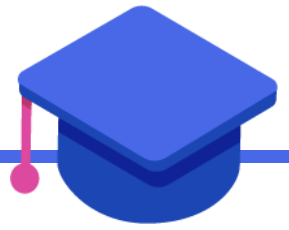# Professional Certificate Exams:
A Practical, No-Excuses Guide –
Just 15 minutes daily!

Sudesh Kannan and Kevin McCahill
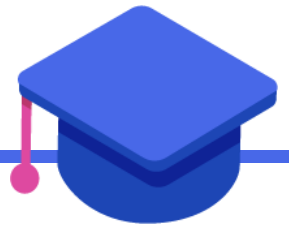
Intro

Sudesh Kannan

aka Dr K Chicago
CISSP, CCSK, CIPP(US)

Kevin McCahill

Security Engineer
CEH, GWAPT, CompTIA Sec+

Agenda

The benefits of professional certification

How to align certification goals with your career goals

How learning styles influence your choice of training material

Resources available in most US public libraries

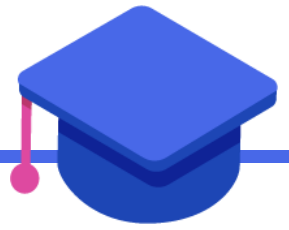How to get motivated for your exam and stay that way
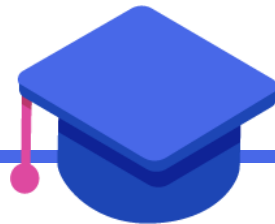
How to study smarter, not harder

Hands on fun: with practice Sec+ questions – Test Anxiety

The benefits of professional certification

Why Certify?

- Increase professional credibility
- Improve career opportunities
- Extend knowledge and skills
- Encourage life-long learning
- Portable proof of ability

How to align career goals with cert goals

Where do you want to go next?

Departures ✈

Time	Destination	Flight	Gate	Status
12:00	Hong-Kong	HK4701	A56	Boarding
12:03	London	HT964	D15	Boarding
12:03	New York	HK4701	B56	Boarding
12:12	Amsterdam	HK487	C12	Boarding
12:25	Buenos Aires	BA2578	B6	Boarding
12:26	Dusseldorf	DS4307	E4	Boarding
12:40	Oslo	OS258	B10	Boarding
12:55	Dubai	DB1234	C31	Boarding
13:03	Bologna	BL9875	A4	Boarding

How to align career goals with cert goals
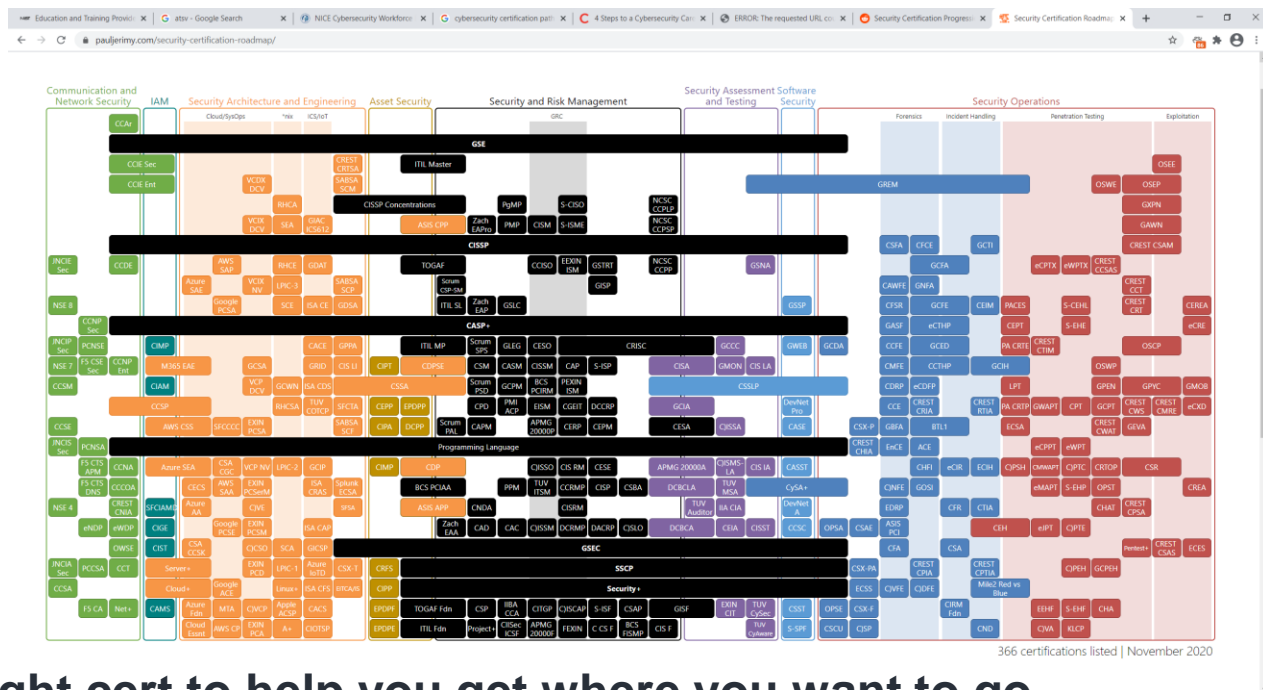
Pick the right cert to help you get where you want to go
https://pauljerimy.com/security-certification-roadmap/

Good News! There is Hope!
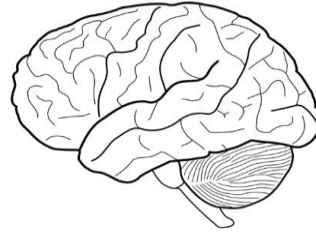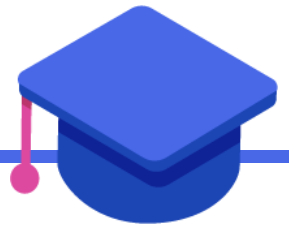
Slow Brain

Knowledge
Knowledge is a process of piling up facts; wisdom lies in their simplification.
- Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fast Brain

Behavior/Habits
"We don't rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training." – Archilochus
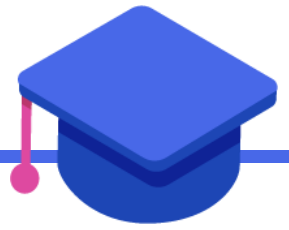
Social Brain
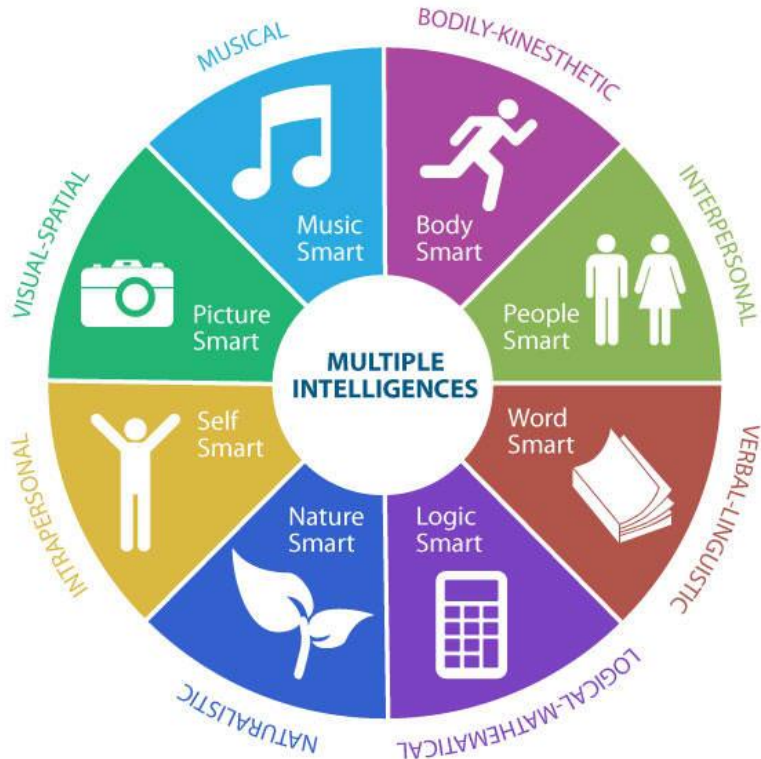
Learn/Teach
"We teach best what we most need to learn" – Richard Bach

Learning styles and you

Theory of Multiple Intelligences
Howard Gardner

How do you learn?

- **Explore** different **learning styles**
- **Try** videos, audios and books
- **Take notes** through memory then recheck
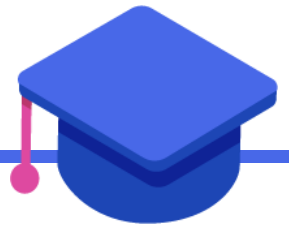- **Try** out these **learning hacks:**

  Memory techniques: Youtube

  Speed reading: Library

US Public Library for certification

Books

Youtube

LinkedIn Learning
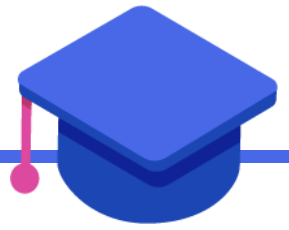
Lots more!!!!

love your library

Memory techniques: Youtube
Speed reading: Library

Top Five Tips to Get and Stay Motivated

1 Set a date/sign up – commitment is 90% of the game

2 Make learning a habit – 15 minutes/day

3 Find a learning style that works for you – video, audio, books etc.
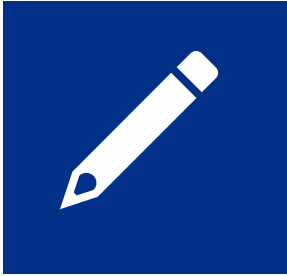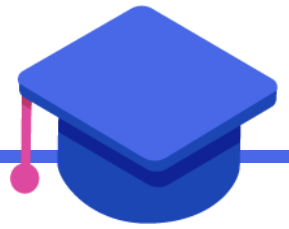
4 50% quizzes, 50% studying

5 Don't overdo it

Study smarter, not harder

Take notes while you watch/listen/read

- The act of taking notes will help to **keep you focused**
- Those notes may become **your best study guide** for cramming the last few days

Use practice exams strategically

- Take a full practice test ~a **week before** the exam
- **Use results** from the practice test to focus on the needed areas in the last few days before the test
- TEST ANXIETY is real!

Use alternate sources to review topics that you're struggling with

CompTIA Security+ Certification
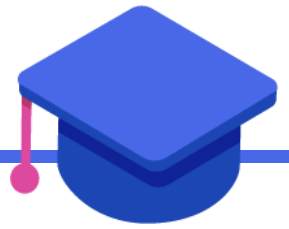
What is the Sec+?

Global certification that validates the baseline skills you need to perform core security functions and pursue an IT security career.

Approved by the US DoD to meet directive 8140/8570.01-M requirements.

Focuses on skills required for any cybersecurity related job including Systems Administrator, Network Administrator, Security Engineer and IT Auditor/PenTester.

CompTIA

Security+

CompTIA Security+ Certification
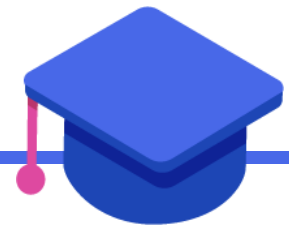
Sec+ SY0-601 Exam Objectives

DOMAIN	% OF EXAMINATION
1. Attacks, Threats and Vulnerabilities	24%
2. Architecture and Design	21%
3. Implementation	25%
4. Operations and Incident Response	16%
5. Governance, Risk and Compliance	14%
Total	**100%**

Quiz Time!