

CAREER BRIEF

Security Control Assessor

Security Control Assessors (SCA) evaluate the security controls within network systems to identify vulnerabilities and recommend actions to correct problems, working either alone or as part of a team. SCA duties begin with conducting an in-depth assessment of the management, operations, and technical security controls. You must analyze information and prepare reports describing the vulnerability level of the network with specific detail as to what compromises data systems. You then develop a plan to address vulnerabilities and continue to monitor the security of network systems.



EDUCATION

Many security controls assessors (SCA) hold a bachelor's degree in information systems, business, computer engineering, math, or a relevant field along with work experience in data security. However, some workers enter the occupation with a high school diploma and relevant industry training and certifications. SCAs need strong skills in project management, teamwork, and communication skills in addition to comprehensive technical knowledge. They have a solid understanding of risk management frameworks and best practices for web application and infrastructure vulnerability testing. They need to be well-versed in information security concepts and methodologies and have experience conducting security assessments of information systems and are familiar with security standards such as NIST 800-53 and ISO 27001.

WHERE THEY WORK

Security control assessors work in a variety of settings, including corporate offices, government buildings, and military bases. They may be required to travel to different locations, both domestic and international, to assess the security controls of an organization. Security control assessors typically work a standard 40-hour week, but they may be required to work overtime during periods of high-security risk. The work can be stressful, as security control assessors must be constantly vigilant and alert to potential threats. They must also be able to think quickly and make decisions under pressure.

FUN FACTS

Security control assessors can have different titles, such as information assurance auditor, system certifier, or controls validator.

The manufacturing industry ranks second, behind the technology industry, when it comes to attacks over encrypted channels. These include meat processing plants, dairy farms, fertilizer plants, clothing makers, and much more.

WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Outlook Handbook | Information Security Analyst [www.bls.gov]

National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education | Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity [www.nist.gov/nice]

WHAT'S THE SALARY?

\$102,600 per year
Bureau of Labor Statistics 2021 Median Pay

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TO CONSIDER

Calculus, Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, Statistics, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Networking

LICENSES- CERTIFICATIONS, & REGISTRATIONS?

Many employers prefer to hire candidates who have information security certification. Some of these certifications, such as Security+, are for workers at the entry-level; others, such as the Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), are designed for experienced information security workers. Certification in specialized areas, such as systems auditing, also is available.

NICE FRAMEWORK WORK ROLES

SCA may have one or more work roles as described in the Workforce Framework for Cybersecurity. Some common work roles might include Security Control Assessor, Systems Security Analyst, Cyber Defense Infrastructure Support Specialist, Vulnerability Assessment Analyst, Information Systems Security Manager, Secure Software Assessor, System Testing and Evaluation