MiC Minorities in Cybersecurity

CYBERCRIME IS THE WORLD'S THIRD GREATEST ECONOMY

Did you know that if cybercrime damage predictions were measured as a country, cybercrime would be the world's third-greatest economy after the United States and China? According to Cybersecurity Ventures, global cybercrime costs will grow by 15% per year over the next five years and reach $10.5 trillion USD annually by 2025. The types of cybercrime damage being measured includes stolen personal identifiable information (PII), destruction of financial data, fraud, disruption to productivity, deletion of system resources, and reputational damage.

This can be seen as a huge problem or an opportunity for those interested in pursuing a career in cybersecurity. I know much is made and said about the "skills shortage" in cybersecurity and the 1.8 million roles that remain unfilled globally. The "experts" place the blame everywhere but where it belongs. The failure of corporations to define what they need and provide training opportunities for those in nontraditional professions or underrepresented groups to fill in the gap.

Cybercrime is only going to get bigger with the continuous rise of IoT, the metaverse, cryptocurrency, NFTs, virtual reality, augmented reality, big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and autonomy all sit on systems that can be exploited. No one can argue that cybercrime can be very lucrative. However, there is only so much complaining that can be done before solutions need to be brought to the table.

Lesson: Filling the "skills shortage" is an investment in talent.

EVENTS

MiC Community Calls – Discontinued for MiC LEAD Aspirers™ programming – COMING SOON

Registration Open for the MiC 2023 Conference: https://www.mincybsec.org/conference-registration

CEO Message

Dear MiC Community,

Have you ever thought to yourself why am I in the cybersecurity field? It can be exhausting because our work is rarely done, we are at times undervalued and underappreciated in our roles. We go to work every day and fight a battle that some will say is impossible to win. But we do it anyway, why?

Years ago, in a team building exercise, my boss asked, if you were not doing what you are doing today what would you be doing? Everyone took turns saying what they would be doing, and each person said something other than cybersecurity. Then when it's my turn, I sadly said, I would be doing exactly what I am doing. Not the most popular answer but it was the truth. Cybersecurity marries three of the four sides of my brain, technology, legal, and thwarting bad guys. It is never dull and there is always something to do! Cybersecurity is my passion.

The fourth part of my brain is the artist and likes to explore my creativity in all kinds of DIY projects around my house!

We've all heard the saying, if you are doing something you love, you will never work a day in your life. I will add a flip side to that, if you don't like what you are doing every day, it will show in your work. I challenge you to answer the question, do I love what I do every day?

I was speaking to my niece, who is a sophomore in college, and she explained that it is unfair to expect someone at 18 (or 19) to know what they want to do with their life. I told her, human beings are not static, and we grow, and our interests change sometime daily! Using myself as an example from IT geek to Special Agent, to entrepreneur, to corporate executive, back to entrepreneur, back to corporate executive, back to entrepreneur.
I explained that the one thing I wanted her to focus on is following her passion and eventually she will find her purpose. In time she will find that one thing she loves to do because she is good at it, and it excites her. By the way I finally get it... for me the answer is cybersecurity entrepreneur!

Lesson: When you follow your passion you will eventually find your purpose!