

RE: Career Choice

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From: Britton, Jeff B. (JBBritton_at_LMUS.LeggMason.com)

Date: 03/08/05

To: 'Richard Kirk' <saviente@gmail.com>, security-basics@securityfocus.com

Date: Tue, 8 Mar 2005 13:11:42 -0500

I've been in security for appx 2 years now, and I can't begin to tell you how much programming experience helps. An overall programming language class is critical – to understand the building blocks of all languages, both sequential and object oriented.

Not only do you become capable of automating many parts of your job (which in turn saves time and \$\$...something every manager likes to see) but you are also able to get a much better handle on specific vulnerabilities/exploits and how they directly affect whatever you are investigating.

Be very careful when you get into MIS or CIS... I was a COSC major and can tell you that CIS and MIS are much broader degree's, and for lack of a better term, much easier than COSC or similar. If you want to break into the security industry right out of school, you'll probably need one of two things...

1. A darn impressive resume
2. An inside contact to get you a job

Best of luck.

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Kirk [mailto:saviente@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2005 8:10 AM

To: security-basics@securityfocus.com

Subject: Career Choice

I am currently a student at DeVry University studding Network Communications Management. My true concentration is in security forensics.

In any case the more I looking into vulnerabilities and network flaws the issues come from within the programming of the application/protocol etc. and most assaults use multiple programming languages to execute these attacks.

I have two questions, the first is should I be learning how to program? My current studies have only one programming language course

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(Intro to Java). Second, will the Bachelors degree I'm getting help me get into the field I'm looking for or should I change my major to something else such as MIS or CIS?

Thank You for your time
Best Regards

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