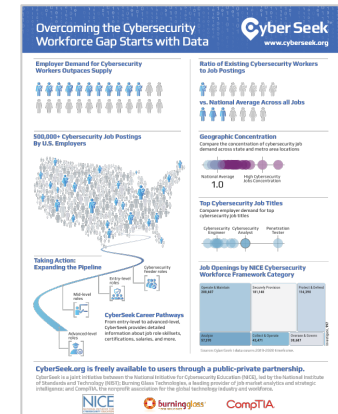


# CyberSeek Frequently Asked Questions

## What is CyberSeek?

[CyberSeek](#) is the preeminent data platform for analyzing the state of the cybersecurity workforce. CyberSeek's innovative use of supply/demand metrics, alignment with the NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework, and [career pathway](#) workforce development planner makes it the go to resource for all things cybersecurity workforce. See CyberSeek [infographic](#) for an overview of key data points and site features.



## How did CyberSeek originate? What problem does it solve?

CyberSeek grew out of a need for data and insight into the many facets of the cybersecurity labor market. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – the primary source of labor market statistics, captures a narrow slice of the overall cybersecurity workforce, leaving many unanswered questions. Beyond the raw data, there were few metrics to assess the state of the cybersecurity workforce from a skills, job roles, and career pathways perspective. The first proof-of-concept mapping of the cybersecurity workforce showing the relationship between talent supply and employer demand was presented in early 2015. This led to the partnership outlined below to develop the concept into a fully interactive analytics and career pathway platform. A CyberSeek advisory committee held its first planning meeting at the [NICE Cybersecurity Conference](#) during November 2015. CyberSeek officially launched a year later during November 2016.

## Who are the partner organizations responsible for developing and managing the CyberSeek platform?

CyberSeek is a public-private partnership between government, industry, academia, and associations. The three lead organizations in developing and managing the CyberSeek platform are the Computing Technology Industry Association ([CompTIA](#)), [Burning Glass Technologies](#), and National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education ([NICE](#)), a program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the U.S. Department of Commerce. The initiative is supported by NICE via grant #60NANB19D124.

## Who are the primary audiences that use CyberSeek?

CyberSeek serves a number of audiences: students, job seekers, cybersecurity professionals, employers, workforce development and public policy makers, press, and market analysts. Since launch, the CyberSeek site has reached more than 1.1 million unique visitors. Additionally, with frequent mentions in the press, on social media, at conferences and related, CyberSeek has reached millions of others directly and indirectly.

## Is CyberSeek free to use?

Yes, CyberSeek is a public good free to use.

## Can CyberSeek data be cited in new articles, blogs, presentations, and related?

Yes, CyberSeek data is frequently cited in new articles, blogs, presentations, and reports. Reporters, bloggers, and analysts are welcome to use any data or metrics from the site. When doing so, please source to CyberSeek.

### **What are the key features of CyberSeek?**

CyberSeek is built on a foundation of unique and comprehensive data. CyberSeek analyzes millions of data points from the demand side (employer job postings) and the supply side (cybersecurity workforce) to produce a dashboard of summary metrics and tools for understanding labor market dynamics. CyberSeek provides this data at a national, state, and metro area level, allowing for the macro picture down to the granular local level view.

CyberSeek output aligns with the NICE Cybersecurity [Workforce Framework](#). This is an important distinguishing feature in that CyberSeek is part of the common taxonomy and lexicon of cybersecurity job roles, skills, and abilities (KSAs). This provides an unparalleled view into the increasingly nuanced KSAs associated with cybersecurity job roles, IT job roles in general, and business job roles that intersect cybersecurity in some way.

CyberSeek is not only a snapshot of the market as it stands, but also a tool for guiding the development of the workforce of tomorrow. With demand for cybersecurity talent consistently outpacing supply, government, industry, and academia must continue to work to expand the pipeline. CyberSeek's interactive [Career Pathway](#) planner provides a road map of cybersecurity feeder roles (aka the stepping stones), entry-level job roles, mid-level job roles, and advanced-level job roles. Data such as average wages, training and certification requirements, and in demand job titles helps job candidates plan their career progression. For employers and workforce development agencies, the career pathway may guide interventions to overcome career development hurdles.

### **How often is the CyberSeek data updated?**

The core CyberSeek dataset is currently updated twice per year. Secondary updates may be made more frequently as needed.

### **How does CyberSeek data compare to other sources, such as the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics?**

As noted above, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics is the foundational source of labor market data in the United States. BLS currently tabulates data for dedicated cybersecurity job roles only (for 2020 the BLS projects approximately 131,000 cybersecurity analysts). This is a good starting point, but it does not account for the widespread practice of cross-functional job roles. For example, a network engineer may devote 50% of their time to cybersecurity work. This is especially common among smaller and mid-size firms where an IT manager may have significant cybersecurity responsibilities. In these scenarios, CyberSeek counts these professionals as part of the cybersecurity workforce whereas the BLS does not.

Other differences in data comparisons may occur due to timing, definitions, geographic region, or methodology.

### **How often are new features added to the CyberSeek platform?**

Significant site enhancements are implemented approximately every other year. Less substantial updates are implemented as needed throughout the year. The CyberSeek team holds annual planning sessions with stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and associations to discuss new ideas, new use cases, and other ways to make the CyberSeek platform more useful to each of the various user groups.

### **Does CyberSeek share its underlying raw data?**

The underlying data is proprietary and contains certain sensitives when disaggregated (e.g. revealing individual or employer locations at a detailed level), so CyberSeek is not able to share raw data sets.

**How can organizations contact CyberSeek with questions or ideas?**

Please contact the CyberSeek team via email at [feedback@cyberseek.org](mailto:feedback@cyberseek.org).