

# Career of the week – CYBER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

**Cyber intelligence officers gather information about where threats to IT systems come from and how they work. They identify common weaknesses in IT networks and analyse and record threats using databases. Then they produce reports recommending protective actions.**

You'll need:

- knowledge of computer operating systems, hardware and software
- complex problem-solving skills
- the ability to use your initiative
- the ability to accept criticism and work well under pressure
- telecommunications knowledge
- to be thorough and pay attention to detail
- persistence and determination
- maths skills
- to have a thorough understanding of computer systems and applications

You could get into this job by working with an IT security firm, for example as a support technician after doing GCSEs or A levels, then work your way up while studying for further qualifications on the job. Or you could do a degree or postgraduate qualification in one of the following subjects:

- computer science
- computer or cyber security
- mathematics
- network engineering and security

You could take a postgraduate course in computing or cyber security if your first degree is not in a related subject, or if you have a lot of industry experience. Or you could do a higher or degree apprenticeship in:

- cyber security
- cyber intrusion
- network engineering

**Salaries range from £31,500 Starter to £50,000 Experienced**  
**You'll work 37-40 hours per week, possibly evenings / weekends. You could work in an office or a client's business. For public sector work, you may need to go through UK Security Vetting. This includes a counter terrorist check, a security check - for access to information classified as 'secret' and developed vetting - for access to information classified as 'top secret'. For private sector work, you may not need to be vetted unless you're working on government systems.**