

IT & Cybersecurity Career Ladder

Skills ► Salary ► Certifications ► Job Roles ► What You Do ► Where You Work

LEVEL 5

ADVANCED / LEAD ROLES

Salary: \$110K – \$140K+

Certifications: CySA+ (experience-based) • Advanced Cloud & Security Tools

Job Roles: Security Engineer • Cloud Engineer • Cybersecurity Consultant • SOC Lead

What You Do: Design and secure complex systems, lead security projects, advise businesses on cyber risk.

Where You Work: Large enterprises, consulting firms, cloud providers, or independent consulting.

LEVEL 4

MID-LEVEL PROFESSIONAL

Salary: \$85K – \$110K

Certifications: CySA+ • Splunk • Linux

Job Roles: Senior Cybersecurity Analyst • Cloud Administrator • Systems Administrator

What You Do: Improve and manage security systems, protect cloud and servers, mentor junior staff.

Where You Work: Large companies, regulated industries, cloud-first organizations, consulting firms.

LEVEL 3

CYBERSECURITY ANALYST

Salary: \$65K – \$85K

Certifications: CySA+ • Splunk Core Certified User

Job Roles: Cybersecurity Analyst • SOC Analyst (L1-L2) • Security Monitoring Analyst

What You Do: Monitor systems for attacks, investigate alerts, respond to security incidents.

Where You Work: Security Operations Centers (SOCs), healthcare systems, banks, government contractors.

LEVEL 2

EARLY CAREER / SPECIALIZATION

Salary: \$55K – \$70K

Certifications: Network+ • Security+ • Azure Fundamentals • Azure AI Fundamentals • Linux

Job Roles: Junior Network Admin • Cloud Support • IT Security Technician

What You Do: Support networks, cloud systems, and security controls under senior guidance.

Where You Work: Mid-size companies, MSPs, healthcare, logistics, finance firms.

LEVEL 1

ENTRY LEVEL (START HERE)

Salary: \$40K – \$55K

Certifications: CompTIA A+

Job Roles: IT Support Specialist • Help Desk Technician • Desktop Support

What You Do: Fix computer problems, help users, and support daily IT operations.

Where You Work: Small businesses, schools, hospitals, local companies, IT support firms or Managed Service Providers (MSPs).

Most PC AGE graduates start at Level 1 or 2 and can move up within 12–24 months.

Salary ranges are conservative estimates for NJ/NY and similar markets. Career progression depends on skills, experience, and performance.