MGT512: Security Leadership Essentials for Managers

Leading Security Initiatives to Manage Information Risk

Take this course to learn the key elements of any modern security program. MGT512 covers a wide range of security topics across the entire security stack. Learn to quickly grasp critical information security issues and terminology, with a focus on security frameworks, security architecture, security engineering, computer/network security, vulnerability management, cryptography, data protection, security awareness, application security, DevSecOps, cloud security, and security operations.

The course uses the Cyber42 leadership simulation game to put you in real-world scenarios that spur discussion and critical thinking of situations that you will encounter at work. Throughout the class you will participate in twenty-three Cyber42 activities.

This course will help your organization:
• Develop leaders that know how to build a modern security program
• Anticipate what security capabilities need to be built to enable the business and mitigate threats
• Create higher performing security teams

Hands-On Training

MGT512 uses case scenarios, group discussions, team-based exercises, in-class games, and a security leadership simulation to help students absorb both technical and management topics. About 60–80 minutes per day is dedicated to these learning experiences using the Cyber42 leadership simulation game. This web application based game is a continuous tabletop exercise where students play to improve security culture, manage budget and schedule, and improve security capabilities at a fictional organization. This puts you in real-world scenarios that spur discussion and critical thinking of situations that you will encounter at work.

Course Author Statement

“Technical professionals who are thrust into management roles need to learn how to convey security concepts in ways that non-technical people can understand. At the same time, managers who are new to security need to learn more about the different domains of cybersecurity. In both cases, there is a need to learn about the work of managing security. That is why this course focuses on the big picture of securing the enterprise, from governance all the way to the technical security topics that serve as the foundation for any security manager. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to ensure that you, the advancing manager, can make informed choices to improve security at your organization.”

—Frank Kim

You Will Be Able To
• Make sense of different cybersecurity frameworks
• Understand and analyze risk
• Understand the pros and cons of different reporting relationships
• Manage and lead technical teams and projects
• Build a vulnerability management program
• Inject security into modern DevOps workflows
• Strategically leverage a SIEM
• Lead a Security Operations Center (SOC)
• Change behavior and build a security-aware culture
• Effectively manage security projects
• Enable modern security architectures and the cloud
• Build security engineering capabilities using automation and Infrastructure as Code (IaC)
• Get up to speed quickly on information security issues and terminology
• Establish a minimum standard of security knowledge, skills, and abilities
• Speak the same language as technical security professionals

“This course was very relevant to my new role as Director of IT.”
— Brian Harris, Jackson EMC

“MGT512 is valuable because it is relevant/current to the security landscape from my management vantage point.”
— Michael Bradley, Prudential Financial

sans.org/mgt512
Section Descriptions

SECTION 1: Building Your Security Program
The course starts with a tour of the information that effective security managers and leaders must know to function in the modern security environment. This includes an understanding of the different types of cybersecurity frameworks available to structure your security team and program. Risk is central to effective information security management, so we'll discuss key risk concepts in order to lay the foundation for effective risk assessment and management. Security policy is a key tool that security managers use to manage risk. We'll cover approaches to policy to help you plan and manage your policy process. Finally, we'll discuss security functions, reporting relationships, and roles and responsibilities to give the advancing manager a view into effective security team and program structure.

TOPICS: Security Frameworks; Understanding Risk; Security Policy; Program Structure

SECTION 2: Protecting Networks and Systems
Section 2 provides coverage of traditional and modern security architectures focused on technical topics. This includes a thorough discussion of network security that is modeled around the various layers of the network stack. As modern attacks are also focused on the computing devices we cover malware and attack examples along with corresponding host security controls for the endpoint and server. The cloud is a major initiative that many organizations is changing the way organizations operate and design their controls. To get ready for these initiatives, we provide an overview of Amazon Web Services (AWS) to serve as a reference point and discuss key cloud security issues. The cloud, the rise of mobile devices, and other factors are highlighting weaknesses in traditional, perimeter-oriented security architecture which leads into a discussion of the Zero Trust Model.

TOPICS: Security Architecture Overview; Network Security; Host Security; Cloud Security; Zero Trust

SECTION 3: Security Engineering
Section 3 focuses on security engineering best practices. This includes building an understanding of cryptography concepts, encryption algorithms, and applications of cryptography which are foundational elements of building any secure system. Since encrypting data alone is not sufficient, we discuss the distinction between privacy and security to give managers a primer on key privacy concepts. Managers must also be knowledgeable about software development processes, issues, and application vulnerabilities. We cover application security and leadin development processes built on DevSecOps. Current engineering approaches also include modern Infrastructure as Code (IaC) approaches and tools to automate consistent deployment of standard configurations.

TOPICS: Security Engineering; Data Protection; Privacy Primer; Privacy Engineering

SECTION 4: Security Management and Leadership
Section 4 covers what managers need to know about leading security initiatives. Every security leader should know how to build a vulnerability management program and the associated process to successfully find and fix vulnerabilities. Additionally, security awareness is a huge component of any security program that helps drive activities to change human behavior and create a more risk-aware and security-aware culture. To implement new initiatives, security leaders must also develop negotiation skills and conduct thorough analysis of vendors. Finally, for any project or initiative, security leaders must also be able to drive effective project execution. Having a well-grounded understanding of the management and leadership practices makes it easier to move your projects forward.

TOPICS: Vulnerability Management; Security Awareness; Negotiations Primer; Vendor Analysis; Managing and Leading Teams

Who Should Attend
- Security Managers
- Newly appointed information security officers
- Recently promoted security leaders who want to build a security foundation for leading and building teams
- Aspiring CISOs
- Security Professionals
- Technically skilled security administrators who have recently been given leadership responsibilities
- Team leads with responsibility for a specific security function who want to understand what other teams are doing and broaden their knowledge
- Managers
- Managers who want to understand what technical people are telling them
- Leaders who need an understanding of security from a management perspective

GSLC Security Leadership
The GIAC Security Leadership (GSLC) certification validates a practitioner’s understanding of governance and technical controls focused on protecting, detecting, and responding to security issues. GSLC certification holders have demonstrated knowledge of data, network, host, application, and user controls along with key management topics that address the overall security lifecycle.

- Cryptography concepts and applications for managers, networking concepts and monitoring for managers
- Managing a security operations center, application security, negotiations and vendors, and program structure
- Managing security architecture, security awareness, security policy, and system security
- Risk management and security frameworks, vulnerability management, incident response and business continuity