What the Graduate Needs to Know about Operational Information Security

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Recommended Citation

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ABSTRACT

Information security is becoming ever more important in our daily lives. Every day there are headlines concerning cyber-attacks on government organizations, private and public firms and individuals. Colleges and universities have shown a strong interest in teaching information assurance because of the growing number of high paying jobs for graduates. The federal government has been backing information security education for years with numerous scholarship programs, center of academic excellence programs, and research funding. One of the challenges associated with teaching information security is how does one decide what belongs in a particular curriculum and what does not. The emphasis in cyber security is shifting from the traditional vulnerability prevention to risk assessment and protecting the digital assets in a near real time environment. The purpose of this paper is to examine the needs of industry and graduates in an attempt to create an educational program that assists in the placement and future success of graduates in cyber security careers.