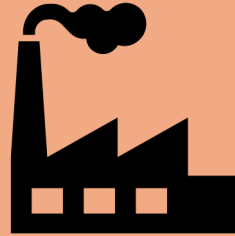# 10 TIPS | INFORMATION SECURITY TODAY

KEEPING CURRENT

PRINTED
Magazines and books from on-line or brick and mortar.

VENDORS
Online resources from white papers to webinars, and podcasts.

WEB / NEWS
Plenty of information security specific news sites. Pick a few, not all; read and digest.

PODCASTS
Podcasts, netcasts, and YouTube great while on the go.

HOMELAB
Build your own lab and practice for free!

PLATFORM
Hacking platforms to learn and perfect your skills.

CONFERENCE
From small and local to global – any time of the year.

COMMUNITIES
Professional Industry Organization / Communities

TRAINING
Online or In-Person. Formal or not. Fee or paid. It helps everybody grow.

LISTEN
Build your network and find a helpful mentor to provide guidance.

PRINTED	Leverage your community library (virtual too). If you are in the US, Barnes & Nobles has a selection of books and magazines including information security and risk management books (Hint: Search for those!), CISSP/CISM and Security+ Certification preparation books, 2600 Magazine, Admin: Network and Security, Linux Format Magazine. I prefer to read more strategic concepts such as books by Bruce Schneier and books on cybersecurity history and major threats and issues – not how to use the latest tools.
VENDORS	Vendors produce a vast amount of materials including threat reports and predictions, topical white papers, and educational and informative white papers. Look for vendors that your company uses and make sure to check out: .Palo Alto, Cisco, Proofpoint, Abnormal Security, Microsoft Security, Google (Mandiant), Crowdstrike, Malware Bytes. Splunk, McAfee, Rapid7, and KnowBe4 are all vendors in different spaces that have developed great material worth a look. Pick a variety of different sources and discern from the hype.
WEB / NEWS	There are more web based resources than probably any other category. There are many steadfast sources and many more that come and go: Krebs on Security, The Hacker News, Bleeping Computer, Reddit (plenty of cybersecurity subs), Dark Reading, CSO Online, Google News Alerts on any number of topics, and Apple News. Don't forget Telegram Groups (search away!) and Relevant regulations have great InfoSec resources available – search for HIPAA and PCI for two good starts to see what compliance means to them.
PODCASTS	Podcasts are a great way to learn and keep current on the go. There are some that are just a few minutes in length and others that are several hours. There are even infosec podcast awards: Security Now (Steve Gibson and Leo Laporte), Cyberwire Daily (Dave Bittner), Malicious Life (Ran Levi), SANS Internet Stormcenter (Johannes Ulrich), Cybersecurity Headlines (CISO Series), Darknet Diaries (Jack Rhysider), and Hacked (Jordan Bloemen and Scott Winder). This is just the tip of the iceberg!
HOMELAB	Unless your work or school has a lab environment, you can build your own at home. Start with your own system using and learning essentials such as the tools already installed (Living off the Land which is an attacker tactic) and then by installing tools including nmap, Wireshark, and Metasploit as you progress in your skills. Kali Linux is a hacker's delight with every tool (and in many cases too-many) installed and ready. There are tutorials galore!. Finally, VirtualBox and Proxmox enable you to build virtual systems on demand.
PLATFORM	There are a number of on-line hosted platforms that are available for you to learn and practice in a safe environment, often with helpful tips and a community to discuss progress and to solicit and provide feedback. Platforms include: TryHackMe (great for the beginner) and Hack the Box has a focus a penetration tests and very good labs and activities. There is also Root-Me which has a great community; and for a focus on web application security, check out what Portswigger offers.
CONFERENCE	From one-hour on-line talks to multi-day global events, there are conferences with networking, formal talks, vendor exhibitions, and informal / birds of a feather talks. Many offer discounts or free opportunities for students. RSA, Blackhat, B-Sides, Defcon, CanSecWest, and organizations including ISC2 and ISACA host conferences. Virtually every major InfoSec vendor hosts conferences to discuss their products and provide broader InfoSec content. Some offer scholarships to students and free admission to customers.
COMMUNITIES	Communities are a great way to build your knowledge and your network. There's even a 2600 Magazine (The Hacker's Quarterly) monthly meet-up! Linked In is a great place to start. Follow top security vendors and other contributors noted here. Reddit with cybersecurity, penetration testing, vendor, security news, and risk assessment subreddits. ISACA, ISC2, ISSA, Infragard which may have membership requirements but offer valuable resources with no fee (some are on their web-site and some simply require registration).
TRAINING	Universities and Colleges from an Information Security major to just taking a single class on a specific task. SANS Institute has awesome opportunities that come at a cost; but have awesome free resources. Conference often have pre and post educational opportunities at reduced rates. Finally - Teach! One of the greatest side-effects for me of being an Adjunct professor is the necessity to keep current on threats, events, trends, and risks so I can pass it along to the students.
LISTEN	Information Security folks love to help others interested in the field (and to get interested in the field!). Find a mentor in your company or your growing network or leverage your college or university's alumni network. LinkedIn is a great way to contribute, solicit feedback, and learn. Your company may have an InfoSec team with somebody who is willing to mentor. Make sure to reach out to them! Professional Organizations often have formal mentor programs and you'll definitely find somebody who has already volunteered to help.