Success in CyberSecurity

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CyberSecurity. Information Security. Ubiquitous words that are quite possibly "trending" on social media hugely in these past few months. But what do they mean? When you hear "careers in Information or Cyber Security are hot right now" or that "Cyber Security is/should be the number one priority for companies" what does it look like in action?

To me, careers in Security - Cyber, Information, Cloud, or any other kind - can be summed up in one sentence. Think evil - and work for the good guys. If that sounds like something you're already trained to do in the military ... bingo. As a vet, protecting and fighting for people and their rights is what you do or have done. Being in CyberSecurity can be a similar experience. And if you think the stakes are that much different, read up on the details of how hospitals lost power when they were hacked or how watershed systems for a town were compromised and you will see that while hacks happen in the online world, their impact is very much IRL - in real life.

Day to day, working in Cyber or Information Security can look very technical, and some days, even mundane. There are meetings discussing projects and programs, rules and regulations, policies and standards, safeguards, regulations. Numbers and metrics and stats that need to be reported so money spent can be justified (sometimes it's labeled program progress). It's easy to forget that there's a larger purpose. There are real people, entire companies, cities, states and countries who get impacted when security is compromised.

Here are some questions to consider when thinking about CyberSecurity:

- Do I prefer to be more hands-on or do I prefer to think high-level?
- Do I prefer tasks that have me behind a computer screen or do I prefer tasks that require me to interact with people?
- Do I like execution or is planning and organization my forte?
- What are some things I can do to keep my knowledge current, beyond experience on the job?

And most importantly – why does CyberSecurity excite ME?