

• CYBER CAREERS · SEARCH & LINKEDIN VISIBILITY

The Cyber Recruiter Keyword Checklist.

How recruiters search for security talent, and how to make sure your resume and LinkedIn show up. By **Victoria Shepherd**, search & LinkedIn visibility.

01 Certifications: spell each one both ways

Recruiters type both the acronym and the full name. Put both on your resume *and* in LinkedIn Licenses & Certifications, and add the credential ID or verification link where the issuer provides one.

CompTIA Security+ (Sec+)	CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst (CySA+)
CompTIA PenTest+	CompTIA SecurityX (formerly CASP+)
Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)	Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)	Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
OffSec Certified Professional (OSCP)	Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)	GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH)

02 Clearance: a wording template

Active TS/SCI · Investigation completed 2024 · Polygraph: CI (only if applicable)
Inactive Secret · Last active 2023

Level, status and date only. No program names, locations, customers or classified details. If you're unsure what you can say, ask your FSO.

03 LinkedIn: the fields that do the work

Headline (up to 220 characters): target title | certs | 2–3 core skills | proof | location/remote

About (up to 2,600 characters): put the role you want and your top keywords in the first 2 lines, which show before “see more.”

Skills: list the skills recruiters search for first (SIEM, incident response, NIST 800-53...) rather than soft skills.

Featured: add your homelab write-up, GitHub, CTF results and CVE/bug-bounty reports.

Open to Work: if you're currently employed, consider “recruiters only.”

LinkedIn limits come from published third-party guides and can change, so check yours in the editor.

04 Search yourself the way recruiters do

These are illustrative strings in the style recruiters build. Paste one into LinkedIn search, then check: **would your profile match every group in parentheses?**

SOC	("SOC analyst" OR "security analyst" OR "security operations") AND (SIEM OR Splunk OR Sentinel OR QRadar) AND ("Security+" OR "CySA+" OR GCIH)
GRC	(GRC OR "risk management" OR compliance) AND ("NIST 800-53" OR "NIST CSF" OR "ISO 27001" OR "SOC 2" OR FedRAMP) AND (CISA OR CISM OR CISSP)
Pentest	("penetration tester" OR "penetration testing" OR "red team") AND (OSCP OR "PenTest+" OR GPEN) AND ("Burp Suite" OR Metasploit)
Cloud	("cloud security" OR "security engineer") AND (AWS OR Azure OR GCP) AND (IAM OR Terraform OR Kubernetes) AND (CCSP OR "AZ-500")
Cleared	("TS/SCI" OR "Top Secret" OR "active clearance") AND ("8140" OR "8570" OR "Security+") AND (ISSO OR "cyber analyst")

05 Role names: say it the way the posting does

Federal and contractor postings often use NICE or DoD 8140 (DCWF) terms. Use the posting's exact term *where it's true for you*, alongside the common job title.

Common job title	NICE Framework work role	DoD DCWF (older name / code)
SOC / security analyst	Defensive Cybersecurity (PD-WRL-001)	Cyber Defense Analyst (511)
Incident responder	Incident Response (PD-WRL-003)	Cyber Defense Incident Responder (531)
Vulnerability / pentest	Vulnerability Analysis (PD-WRL-007)	Vulnerability Assessment Analyst (541)
GRC / security assessor	Security Control Assessment (OG-WRL-012)	Security Control Assessor (612)
ISSM / ISSO	Systems Security Management (OG-WRL-014)	Info. Systems Security Manager (722)
Security engineer	Systems Security Analysis (IO-WRL-006)	Systems Security Analyst (461)

06 15-minute self-audit

- ☐ Every cert appears as both the full name and the acronym
- ☐ Headline names a target title, not “aspiring”
- ☐ Clearance line is level + status + date only
- ☐ Each tool on your resume is tied to what you did with it
- ☐ Homelab, CTF or GitHub proof is linked on the resume and in Featured
- ☐ Resume is single-column, with standard headings and no tables or text boxes
- ☐ Your profile matches at least one of the Boolean strings in section 4
- ☐ Every number on your resume is one you can back up in an interview

• WHAT CLIENTS SAY

Full guide with before/after examples → welcomeplacemarketing.com/cyber-resume-linkedin-guide

★★★★★

“Victoria's expertise in LinkedIn optimization is truly unparalleled. She took the time to understand my professional journey and crafted a profile that beautifully highlights my strengths and achievements.”

HD Heather DePalma
CEO, Profferfish

★★★★★

“As someone looking to expand my thought leadership online, I needed someone who could not only offer strategic advice but also inspire creativity. Victoria has been that person and more.”

EM Erin Mac
Coach & Corporate Workshop
Facilitator

★★★★★

“Since implementing Victoria's strategies, I've seen a dramatic rise in both engagement and impressions. Her coaching has empowered me to share my insights more effectively.”

SR Susi Rinaman
Director, Global EHS — Qurate
Retail Group

★★★★★

“Thanks to Victoria's exceptional work, my LinkedIn profile now stands out in my industry and effectively supports my business growth. If you're serious about your presence, I highly recommend her.”

CA Chandler Aden
President, Aden Consulting