



# INCIDENT RESPONDER

## COMMON QUALIFICATIONS

- CompTIA: Network+, Security+, Linux+, Cybersecurity Analyst+
- Azure fundamentals
- MAC forensics
- PenTesting courses
- Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP)
- Hands-on training such as TryHackMe and HackTheBox
- SANS certifications in digital forensics, incident response, and security analysis
- GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH) certification
- GIAC Defending Advanced Threats (GDAT) certification
- GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA)
- Degree in Forensics



**FUNCTION:** An Incident Responder thrives in the aftermath of cybersecurity incidents, swiftly and effectively investigating compromised systems to identify the root cause, contain the threat, and mitigate further damage. These experts are trained to handle high-pressure situations with precision and expertise, leveraging their technical knowledge and analytical skills to restore security and minimize the impact of cyber attacks.

## ABILITIES



**Digital Detective:** Searches for signs of unauthorized access and intrusion attempts, analyzing network traffic, logs, and system alerts to uncover potential security breaches and unauthorized activities.



**Attack Vector Analysis:** With a variety of attack vectors that can be used to compromise systems and networks, an Incident Responder analyzes email within headers and telemetry data, network of ports and anomalous behaviors, host for any potential registry modifications within logs, and authentication methods.



**Cyber Vigilance Instinct:** Maintains a continuous state of alertness, constantly thinking ahead and envisioning potential attack scenarios. These individuals approach their work with an attacker mindset, always considering “what if” scenarios and devising response strategies to mitigate the impact or minimize damage before they materialize.

**“Pain is weakness leaving the body.”**



**Chronological Analysis:** As with almost digital historians, they generate timelines of events, meticulously documenting the sequence of activities and incidents that build a comprehensive record to aid in forensic investigations, incident response, and threat intelligence analysis. They correlate events from various sources, such as log files, network traffic, and system alerts, piecing together fragmented evidence to create a cohesive narrative of what transpired.



**Cross-functional Communicator:** Effectively communicates with stakeholders across various levels of an organization, from the C-suite to technical teams, conveying complex cybersecurity concepts in a clear and understandable manner, from implications of security risks to the importance of implementing protective measures.



**Prioritization Maestro:** Juggling multiple incidents, they are skilled in determining which ones require immediate attention based on their criticality and potential impact. They maintain focus amidst chaos, swiftly assessing each incident's severity and prioritizing actions to mitigate the most significant risks first.



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## PERSONALITY TRAITS



**Level-headed Navigator:** Maintains a composed and steady demeanor, even in the face of intense pressure and high-stakes situations. These individuals possess the emotional intelligence to balance a sense of urgency with calmness, allowing them to navigate complex incidents with clarity and rational decision-making.



**Curious Explorer:** With an insatiable thirst for knowledge in cybersecurity, an Incident Responder embodies a curious and experimental mindset whether it's creating their own labs and simulating attacks to playing online capture the flag, or to learning new tools to use in their investigations.



**Proactive Go-Getters:** Relentless in their pursuit of security excellence, taking proactive steps to acquire the skills and expertise needed to excel in their endeavors. They embrace new opportunities for learning and development, blazing their own trail to success through determination and resilience.



**Teachable Learner:** Epitomizes a teachable spirit, embodying the philosophy of learning through failure and perseverance. They view setbacks not as roadblocks, but as valuable learning opportunities, using each experience to refine their skills and deepen their understanding. Their resilience and determination enable them to persist in the face of adversity, continuously striving to improve and grow, no matter the challenges they encounter.

**TAKES PROACTIVE STEPS TO ACQUIRE THE SKILLS AND EXPERTISE NEEDED TO EXCEL IN THEIR ENDEAVORS**



**MAINTAINS A COMPOSED AND STEADY DEemeanor, EVEN IN THE FACE OF INTENSE PRESSURE AND HIGH-STAKES SITUATIONS**



## STANDARD EQUIPMENT

- Highly specialized multi-screen systems with high processing power
- Terabyte hard drives
- Sandboxes
- Organized notetaking app
- Debuggers
- Digital forensics and incident response automation platform (DFIR)
- Forensic imaging for hard drives
- Open-source tools to parse and out that can be easily readable and searchable
- SIEM tools
- AI tools – for research

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