

Level II Cybersecurity Analyst Position: An Analysis

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Abstract

This paper examines a job listing on the website www.ziprecruiter.com, for the position of “Cybersecurity Analyst” at Booz Allen Hamilton in Langley, VA. The paper analyzes the job listing, including the skills and expertise required for the job, the pay range of the job, benefits of the job, both provided by the company and general benefits (such as work experience and things of that nature), industry certifications, and additional skills not explicitly mentioned in the job listing. The paper explores both current and future motivators of pursuing the position, in addition to expressing personal desire for the position. The topics of company culture, the potential soft skills, and potential for challenges within the role will be discussed as well.

Introduction

The cybersecurity landscape continues to face complex digital threats from bad actors. Companies are now seeking highly skilled professionals that can effectively protect critical systems and applications. This paper will analyze the job listing on ZipRecruiter for a level II cybersecurity analyst position at Booz Allen Hamilton. The analysis will consist of the skills, expertise, certifications, and company culture needed to be eligible for the role, while also exploring personal motivation for pursuing such a role.

General and Skills Required

This job listing is for a Level II Cybersecurity Analyst role at Booz Allen Hamilton (BOH). The Cybersecurity analyst position is on the security operations center (SOC) department

of BOH. This role is looking for someone to apply their technical skills in order to help clients of BOH mitigate vulnerabilities and inform clients of mitigation strategies. Applicants would use a software program known as Elastic for real-time threat searching and analytics. Applicants are also expected to help in creating, designing, engineering, and implementing security solutions into enterprise systems, with strong emphasis on incident response readiness (ZipRecruiter). Someone with this role would be required to have experience with operating systems such as Linux, Unix, Ubuntu, or Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL). The listing also emphasizes that applicants have experience with using cloud technologies, DevSecOps, honeypots, honeytokens, zero trust architectures, etc.

Experience and Certifications Required

While the role on ZipRecruiter is titled just “Cybersecurity Analyst” we can see that this is an advertisement for a level II role, rather than a level I role. This is due to the fact that the listing is looking for someone with a master’s degree in computer science. It also is looking for with the Certified Information Systems Security Professionals (CISSP), Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP), or Certified Information Security Manager (CISM) certifications. The significance of the recruiter looking for someone with these certifications is the fact that these are high-ranking, senior-level certifications in the cybersecurity field. This signals that the recruiter is looking for someone with years of experience in the field, and not somebody right out of college. The listing also explicitly mentions the DoD 8140 IAT level II certification, which is a certification for network environment information assurance (Indeed).

Additional Skills

The Booz Allen Hamilton job listing for “Cybersecurity Analyst” requests that applicants have a specific skillset to be eligible for the job, including technical skills, experience in certain software programs, ability to design, create, engineer, and implement security solutions into enterprise systems, experience with operating systems such as Linux, Unix, Ubuntu, RHEL, a master’s degree in computer science, the CISSP, CCSP, and CISM certifications, and the DoD 8140 IAT level II certification. While these skills are mentioned explicitly, this kind of job also requires specific general skills that are not explicitly mentioned in the job listing. One of these skills is critical thinking. In the realm of cybersecurity, critical thinking is an important skill for analysts to have, as cybersecurity professionals must not resist thinking inside of a box, they must be able to think like a hacker or an adversarial figure in order to protect critical systems. For this job specifically, critical thinking would be particularly important when designing, creating, engineering, and implementing security solutions for Booz Allen Hamilton’s clients. Another skill that comes to mind is teamwork. Teamwork is also important in cybersecurity, as you’re never really working alone on an assignment, you have a team of people around you working together to achieve the same common goal. Teamwork would also be important when designing, creating, engineering, and implementing security solutions, as it is very unlikely that Booz Allen Hamilton would have just one person taking on that load of work. Teamwork would also come in handy when using the Elastic software mentioned in the listing, as threat searching also requires teamwork.

Current/Future Motivators

Motivators of working as a Cybersecurity Analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton include the wide variety of benefits that they offer when working for them. They offer health, life, disability, financial, and retirement benefits, as well as paid leave, professional development, tuition assistance, work-life programs, and dependent care (ZipRecruiter). Another motivator is the value of having job experience at Booz Allen Hamilton on a resume. Booz Allen Hamilton is a very reputable company, and if there were a scenario where an employee needs to find a new job, they would likely be able to find employment very easily with experience at Booz Allen Hamilton on their resume. A current motivator is the fact that the pay for this job is \$141,000 (ZipRecruiter).

Explaining Personal Desire for this Position

This position is desirable for me for several reasons. For starters, Booz Allen Hamilton is a very reputable company, as I mentioned in the “Current/Future Motivators” paragraph. I was already aware of how reputable Booz Allen Hamilton was prior to looking at this job listing, as my father currently a software engineer for Booz Allen Hamilton, and he speaks very highly of the company. Another aspect to mention is the high pay for the position, which is \$141,000. I also recognize some of the requirements or experience that they ask for and have experience in a few areas, like when they specifically ask for expertise in Linux and Ubuntu, which I have experience in because of the courses I’ve taken at ODU. But perhaps most importantly is that this job seems like a long-term career opportunity that I could see myself settling down with. Obviously, this is not an entry level position as discussed, but that factor makes me feel a sense

of motivation in myself to work hard and strive for a position such as this. Of course, a position like this requires years of experience to even be eligible for it, but all of the upsides to the position make it seem worth it to me. I have a long road ahead of me, I still have to graduate college, find an entry level job in cybersecurity, and earn more certifications in order to find higher-level work, but a position like this makes it all seem not as bad. The position is almost like my light at the end of the tunnel on the road I'm about to go down.

Company Culture

Booz Allen Hamilton promotes a company culture of personal empowerment, as advertised by themselves on their website. The culture of Booz Allen Hamilton is defined by three pillars: purposeful engagement, flex for success, and empowering our people. "Purposeful Engagement" emphasizes collaborating, connection, and experiencing the energy that makes Booz Allen Hamilton Booz Allen Hamilton. "Flex for Success" focuses on enjoying flexibility and support for work-life balance. "Empowering our people" is defined as one bringing their best self into work and growing in their career and personal life (Booz Allen).

Soft Skill

A soft skill not explicitly mentioned in the job listing, but I believe to be crucial to the position is the skill of communication. I think that having good communication skills is an excellent life skill, but I think it is even more important for this job. Being able to effectively communicate problems or issues and using communication with colleagues is crucial to maintaining a strong security posture without setbacks or headaches. Good communication sets a

level of understanding with everyone that you work with on a problem and helps create safer and faster solutions to those problems.

Role Challenges

A challenge in this role that immediately comes to mind is the transitioning from level I roles and responsibilities to level II roles and responsibilities. While I don't technically have experience as a level I cybersecurity analyst, I have worked very closely with a few at my internship and I generally performed the same duties as them, and comparing what they do and what this job listing requests of applicants, I think there could be a bit of a learning curve of sorts when transitioning between the two positions. From what I have observed and what I've experienced, level I work consists of using company systems and applications to maintain a strong security posture. This job listing wants applicants to create, design, implement, and engineer these company systems and applications, on top of using them to maintain a strong security posture.

Conclusion

This level II cybersecurity analyst position at Booz Allen Hamilton is both a challenging and rewarding career opportunity for applicants. This role requires technical skills, industry-recognized certifications, and soft skills such as critical thinking, teamwork, and communication. Its benefits include competitive compensation, a supportive company culture, as well as long term growth and stability. It is a strong motivating goal and a great example of experience, education, and dedication needed to succeed in cybersecurity.

References

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