

Cyber Security Starter Mission

Welcome to Cyber Security!

This optional starter task is designed to help you explore cyber security before the course begins. It is not assessed, and you will not be behind if you do not complete it. The aim is simply to help you get curious about the subject.

Choose **one or two** of the missions below. Spend around **1–2 hours in total**.

Mission 1: Watch and Wonder

Watch one or two beginner-friendly cyber security videos. Good search terms include:

- Crash Course Computer Science Cybersecurity
- Crash Course Computer Science Hackers and Cyber Attacks
- Crash Course Computer Science Cryptography
- Computerphile cyber security
- Google Cybersecurity for Beginners

After watching, write down:

- 5 key words you heard
- 3 things you learned
- 1 thing that surprised you
- 1 question you would like answered on the course

Mission 2: Read Like a Security Analyst

Look at one beginner cyber security guide, such as:

- NCSC Small Organisations Guide to Cyber Security
- OpenLearn Introduction to Cyber Security: Stay Safe Online
- Cisco Networking Academy Introduction to Cybersecurity

Create a short summary called:

“Five simple things people or organisations can do to stay safer online.”

Try to include ideas such as passwords, multi-factor authentication, backups, updates, phishing, safe email use, or device security.

Mission 3: Cyber Case File

Choose a real cyber attack or online scam you have heard about. It could be a phishing scam, ransomware attack, data breach, hacked social media account, or a cyber attack against a company.

Create a short case file:

- What happened?
- Who or what was affected?
- Was confidentiality, integrity or availability affected?
- Was the weakness mainly human, technical, physical, or organisational?
- What could have reduced the risk?

Mission 4: Secure a Small Business

Imagine a small local business, such as a café, hairdresser, gym, mechanic, sports club, charity shop, or games shop.

Create a simple one-page cyber security plan for them. Include:

- 3 things they need to protect
- 3 cyber risks they might face
- 5 simple security rules they should follow
- 1 rule for passwords
- 1 rule for backing up data
- 1 rule for spotting suspicious emails or messages

Mission 5: Try a Safe Cyber Training Lab

Only use legal, beginner training platforms such as TryHackMe beginner/free rooms. Do not attempt to test, scan, hack, or access any real website, account, network, router, school/college system, or other person's device.

Suggested beginner search terms:

- TryHackMe Starting Out in Cyber Sec
- TryHackMe Pre Security
- TryHackMe Intro to Cyber Security

Write down what you learned, but do not share passwords, flags, answers, or personal information.

Important Cyber Ethics Rule

Cyber security is about protecting people, systems and data. Only practise in legal training environments or on systems you own and have permission to use.

Bring your notes, questions, or ideas to the first lesson. We will use them for discussion, but this task is optional and not assessed.