

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF HISP CERTIFICATION?

Increasing awareness of information security issues and ongoing challenges in data protection has amplified the demand for experienced security professionals that can develop and manage robust and effective information security programs. Accordingly, the demand for security certifications, particularly those with a security management focus, is also growing.

A study released by Gartner predicted that:

"Security certification will be required of 40 percent of personnel having day-to-day technical operations responsibility".

Recent trends show that the demand and funding for qualified information security practitioners with industry credentials and certifications continues to rise. A Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) survey reported that information security certifications are the most sought-after area of specialty among information security and IT professionals. The study also revealed that economic advancement and personal growth are key drivers for seeking certifications.¹

In the current global economic recession, the 2009 [CareerBuilder.com report](#) indicates that the role of Information Security Manager is one of the 5 recession proof jobs.

More and more companies are looking for information security professionals trained in the specific disciplines necessary to build and maintain a formal Information Security Management System (ISMS). This is evident in a survey released by Ernest & Young titled: ***"Outpacing change Ernst & Young's 12th annual global information security survey"***

This survey states:

"Information security management system

*A structured and repeatable risk management approach is the core element of an information security management system (ISMS). It is also the approach chosen by a majority of companies to address their information security risks. Our survey results show that 44% of respondents currently have an ISMS in place or are in the process of implementing one, with another 32% considering an ISMS solution. Information security standards are also playing an increasingly important role in shaping the ISMS for many organizations. Although only 8% of respondents have achieved formal certification, 36% of respondents indicated that they are using the ISO/IEC 27001:2005 security standard as the basis for their ISMS. Standards can provide organizations with a set of leading practices related to information security risk management and are a logical starting point in developing an effective and comprehensive ISMS."*²

¹:http://www.comptia.org/news/pressreleases/09-11-04/IT_Prof_Seeking_Security_Certifications_CompTIA_Survey_Reveals.aspx

²:[http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Global_Information_Security_Survey_2009/\\$FILE/EY_Global_Information_Security_Survey_2009.pdf](http://www.ey.com/Publication/vwLUAssets/Global_Information_Security_Survey_2009/$FILE/EY_Global_Information_Security_Survey_2009.pdf)

³:http://www.careerbuilder.com/Article/CB-829-Who-is-Hiring-Is-Your-Job-Recession-Proof/?cbsid=8c220ec8abde4708b87cf5c900496a79-323881748-wm-6&ns_siteid=ns_us_g_recession_proof_jobs__&ArticleID=829&cbRecursionCnt=2

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Governance, risk and compliance spending to grow in 2010

A research article published by Searchcompliance.com indicated that after a two-year decline, governance, risk and compliance (GRC) spending is expected to grow to \$29.8 billion in 2010, up nearly 4% over the \$28.7 billion spent in 2009, according to new data from AMR Research Inc. in Boston.

The bulk of the spending -- **nearly 70% -- is pegged for people and processes, rather than technology, with:**

- \$14 billion going to internal services, including day-to-day management and tasks across business, IT, legal and audit.
- \$6.6 billion for external services, encompassing consulting, implementation and processes outsourced onshore and offshore.
- \$9.2 billion for technology, including software, hardware and integration.

Risk mitigation, and cost reduction were cited as top motivators for GRC spending.

Ultimately, there are key considerations that are driving the need for certification:

- ***Ability to verify skills and/or competencies in the information security profession:*** Confidence that individuals actually know how to do the job and are competent in the skills needed to meet their security responsibilities.
- ***Validation for companies seeking to hire:*** Certification also serves as a good screening process for new managers. By obtaining certification the candidate has shown their level of knowledge of the body of knowledge set by an independent certification body.
- ***Ensuring information security staffs maintain up-to-date knowledge and skillsets:*** A certification must be kept up-to-date with continuing education. This shows a candidate's commitment to their ongoing education and desire to remain current with new concepts.
- ***Providing employers 'ROI':*** For current employees it is verification that you and your employee received a return on investment. You both have something that is tangible to prove what you have accomplished and the continuing education requirement ensures continual improvement of the employee's skills and knowledge.
- ***Assurance that information security practitioners maintain a high degree of confidence:*** Certified individuals also must agree to comply with a specified "Code of Ethics". This provides a belief in and an inherent level of trust in the certificate holder.

Why Consider the Holistic Information Security Practitioner (HISP) Certification?

The HISP certification has a unique body of knowledge. The HISP certification focuses on widely accepted frameworks for developing an Information Security program or Information Security Management System. These frameworks include:

- ISO/IEC 27001 and 27002;
- CobIT (ISACA's framework for IT Governance);
- COSO and
- ITIL

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- The HISP enhances other certifications such as the CISSP, CISM, CISA, CFA and those that are more focused on technical disciplines such as Cisco and CheckPoint.
- The HISP bridges the gap between existing professional certification programs by proactively promoting the need to develop comprehensive and holistic information security programs amongst information security, audit and compliance professionals representing various sectors internationally.
- The HISP promotes cost-effective training and certification to information security, audit and compliance professionals, particularly Public Sector and Higher Education employees, where budget constraints can be a barrier to obtaining such quality training and certification.
- The HISP provides a vendor neutral forum that will facilitate the sharing of knowledge, ideas and other positive initiatives for enhancing the current state of information security in various sectors.
- HISP fosters collaborative efforts across various sectors internationally, particularly government, law enforcement and commercial.
- HISP certification fosters a positive code of ethics amongst information security, audit and compliance professionals.
- Finally, a HISP certified individual can help their organization reduce the cost of meeting legal, regulatory and contractual requirements pertaining to information security, across various regulations and business requirements.

For more information on the HISP certification and the Holistic Information Practitioner Institute (HISPI), visit www.hispi.org.

Some just “say what they can do”.....HISP’s can “do what they say”.

Take the challenge.....

