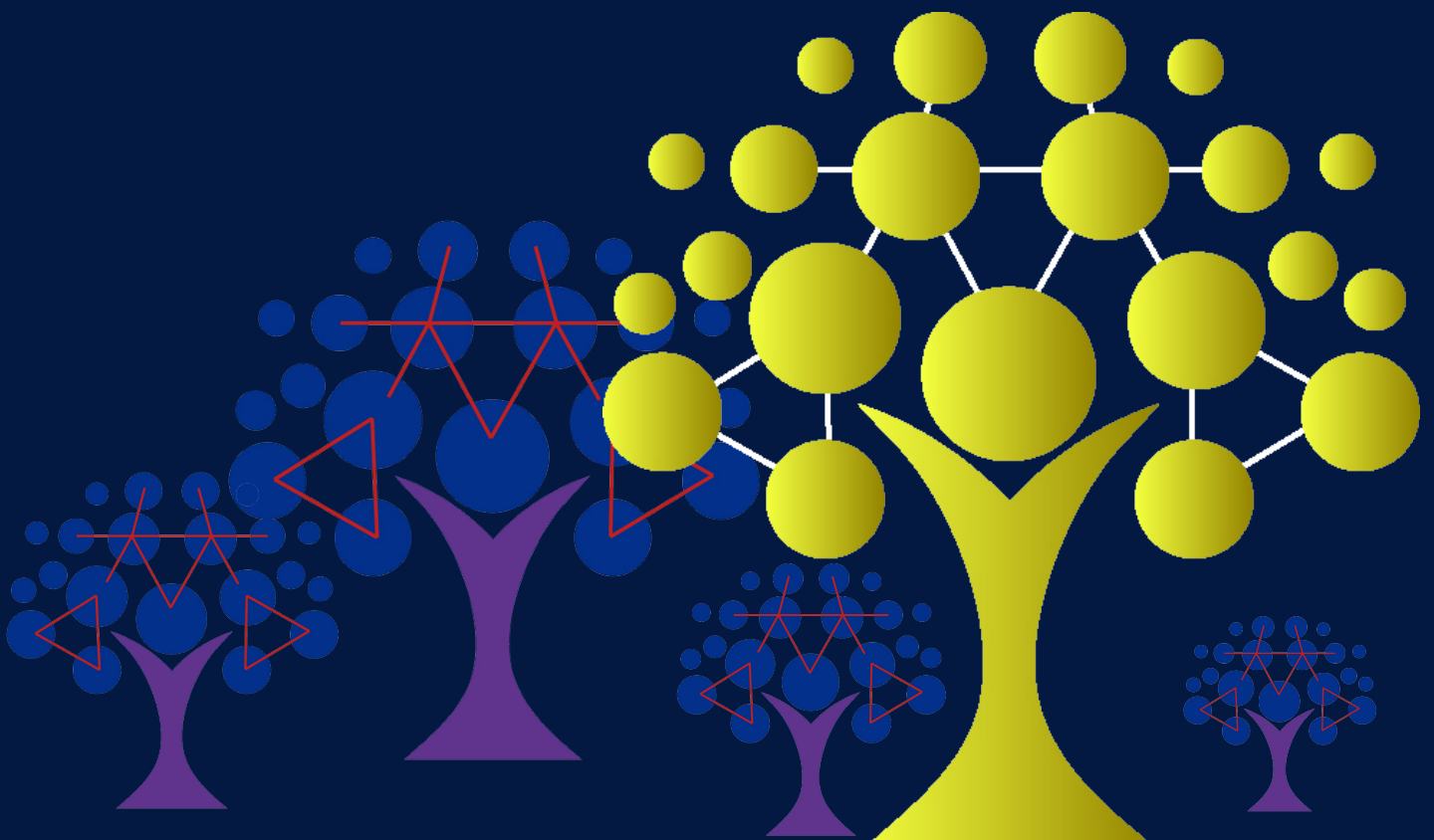


>>The 5-Point Checklist:
For a Standout
Cybersecurity_Resume



>>Your Resume is Your First Impression. Make it Count.

You've decided to pursue a career in cybersecurity and you're putting in the work to learn the skills. But how do you showcase your potential when you don't have years of experience?

Your ambition is clear, but is your resume doing its job? Too often, talented individuals get overlooked because their resume doesn't effectively communicate their value to recruiters and automated systems.

This guide is your solution. We've distilled the most effective, modern resume strategies into five simple, actionable steps. In the next 15 minutes, you'll learn how to transform your resume from a list of tasks into a powerful tool that opens the doors you deserve.

Let's get started.

THE 5 POINT CHECKLIST

STEP ONE

Ditch the "Objective,"
Write an "Impact Summary"



MAKE YOUR RESUME STAND OUT

STEP TWO

Add Keywords
to Beat the
Bots!



STEP THREE

Showcase Projects
Over Coursework



STEP FOUR

Quantify Your Impact
with Numbers



STEP FIVE

Include the
"Human Skills"



>> DITCH THE OBJECTIVE

Write_an_Impact_Summary

BEFORE

"Objective: To obtain a challenging entry-level role in cybersecurity."

WHY IT MATTERS

An "Objective" statement talks about what you want. A "Summary" talks about the value you provide. Hiring managers want to see the value first.

AFTER

"A motivated cybersecurity student with hands-on project experience in network analysis and threat hunting. Seeking to apply problem-solving and collaboration skills to help secure enterprise systems."

YOUR TO DO

Write a 2-sentence summary at the top of your resume that highlights your top 2 skills and the value you want to bring to a company.

>> ADD KEYWORDS

Beat_the_Bots!

BEFORE

Vague skills list: "Teamwork, Microsoft Office, Security Concepts."

WHY IT MATTERS

Most large companies use Applicant Tracking Systems (ATS) to scan resumes. If your resume doesn't have the keywords from the job description, a human will likely never see it.

AFTER

Specific, keyword-rich skills: "Threat Intelligence, Incident Response, SIEM, Python, MITRE ATT&CK, Network Security, Cloud Security (AWS)."

YOUR TO DO

Read the job description for a role you want. Find 5-7 keywords and add them to your "Skills" and "Projects" sections.

>> SHOWCASE YOUR PROJECTS

Over_Coursework

BEFORE

"Relevant Coursework: Intro to Networking, Security 101."

WHY IT MATTERS

Your classes show you can learn. Your projects prove you can do. A project section is the best way to show practical experience, even if you haven't had an internship yet.

AFTER

"Project: Home Lab Network Monitor

Configured a virtual network using VMware to simulate a small business environment.

Deployed a SIEM to collect and analyze logs, successfully identifying three simulated intrusion attempts."

YOUR TO DO

Create a "Projects" section on your resume. Detail 1-2 key projects from school, a hack-a-thon, or your personal time.

>> QUANTIFY YOUR IMPACT

With_Numbers

BEFORE

"Helped the team improve security processes."

WHY IT MATTERS

Numbers provide proof and scale. They turn a vague statement into a concrete achievement.

AFTER

"Contributed to a team project that improved a security process, reducing alert response time by 15%."

YOUR TO DO

Find at least 3 bullet points in your resume and add a number, percentage, or dollar amount to show your impact.

>> INCLUDE YOUR HUMAN SKILLS

Technical_Skills_Are_Expected

WHY IT MATTERS

Human skills are what make you a great teammate. "Your ability to communicate and collaborate is just as important as your technical skill."

BEFORE

Leaving soft skills off or using clichés like "Hard worker."

AFTER

A dedicated section titled "Professional Skills" that includes: "Teamwork & Collaboration, Technical Communication, Problem-Solving, Adaptability."

YOUR TO DO

Add a "Professional Skills" or "Soft Skills" section to your resume and list 3-4 key human skills you possess.

>>YOU'VE COMPLETED THE CHECKLIST

Here's_Your_Final_Step

Congratulations. By applying these 5 points, you have already moved your resume into the top tier. Now, it is time for our 1:1 mentor review. As a Gold Tier member, this strategic review is a key benefit of your membership.

To make our session as productive as possible, you must complete the final prep-work. This ensures we use our time to focus directly on high-level strategy.

Required Prep-Work for Your 1:1 Review: Your 6 Pre-Work Questions

Please prepare your answers to the following 6 questions. You will need to submit them via one of the two methods below.

- What is the URL for one job posting you are targeting?
- What type of position are you looking for? (e.g., Remote, Hybrid, In-Person? What location?)
- What are your 1-2 target job titles? (e.g., "SOC Analyst", "Pentester")
- After reading this 5-point checklist, what do you believe is the single biggest weakness of your resume?
- What do you believe is the single biggest strength of your resume?
- What is the #1 question you want answered in our 1:1 review?

How to Submit & Book Your Review: Choose your preferred method below

Secure Form

- This is the fastest way to get your booking link.
- Go to our secure **Prep-Work Submission Form**
<https://memberships.raicescyber.org/gold-prep-submission>
- Copy and paste your answers to the 6 questions into the form fields.
- Once you submit the form, our system will immediately send the private booking link to your email.
- That email will also contain instructions to reply and attach your resume.

Direct Email

- If you prefer, you may submit manually.
- Compose a new email with the subject line: Gold Tier Prep-Work.
- In the body of the email, paste your answers to the 6 questions.
- Send it to: amy.knoell@raicescyber.org
- Once we receive your email, we will manually verify your submission
- and send you the private booking link.



>>YOUR GOLD TIER BENEFITS

Benefits_Summary

This 1:1 mentor review is just one of the benefits included in your Gold Tier membership. We are dedicated to providing you with the strongest impact and full recognition in your journey.

- Access to all chapters
- 30% discount for RaícesCON
- 25% discount on events
- Priority in volunteering and programs
- LinkedIn profile frame
- RCO educational newsletter
- Mentorship opportunities
- 20% RCO Merch Discount Coupon
- Recognition Wall spotlight

ABOUT YOUR MENTOR: Amy Knoell

Experienced advocate for better hiring practices in the cybersecurity and information technology community.

Recruiting continuously for 23 years, with experience building strategic partnerships and recruiting top cyber talent, I have focused on staffing positions specifically in the Cybersecurity and IT space for the last 15+ years.

Career specializations include building teams that do: Product Security, Software Security, AppSec, DevSec, Security Architecture, and Security Leadership.

- Connect with Amy on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/amyknoell>

>> STAY CONNECTED WITH RAÍCES CYBER

