

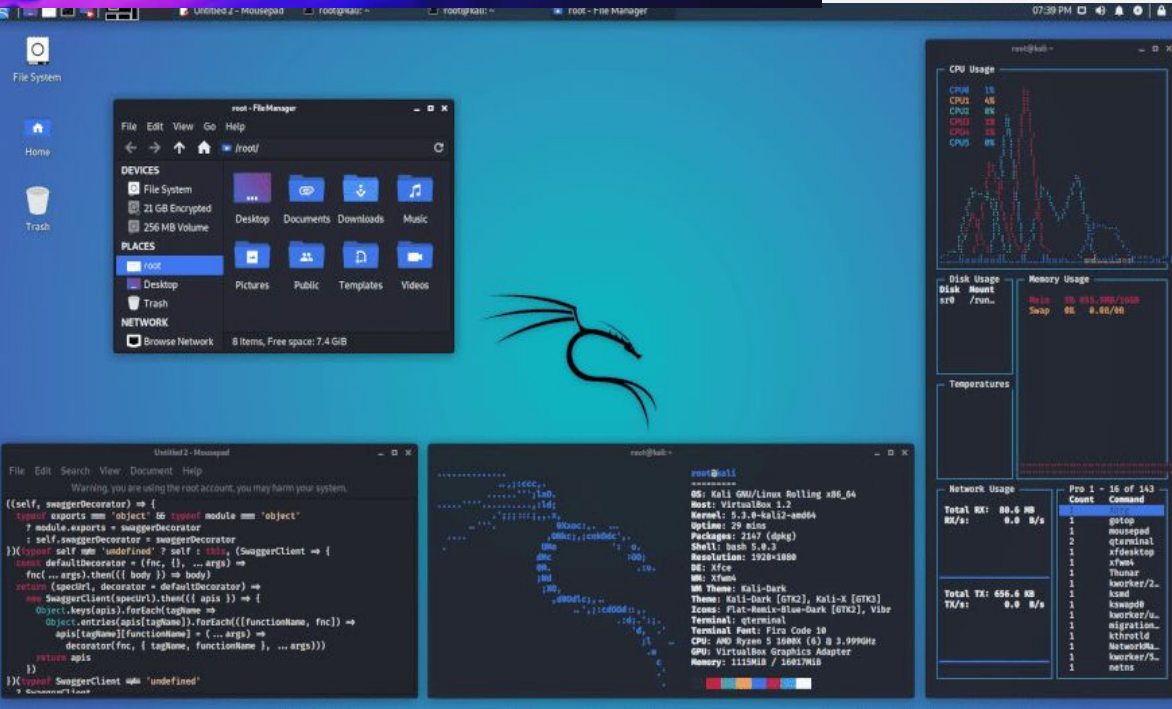
# Cybersecurity Starter Pack

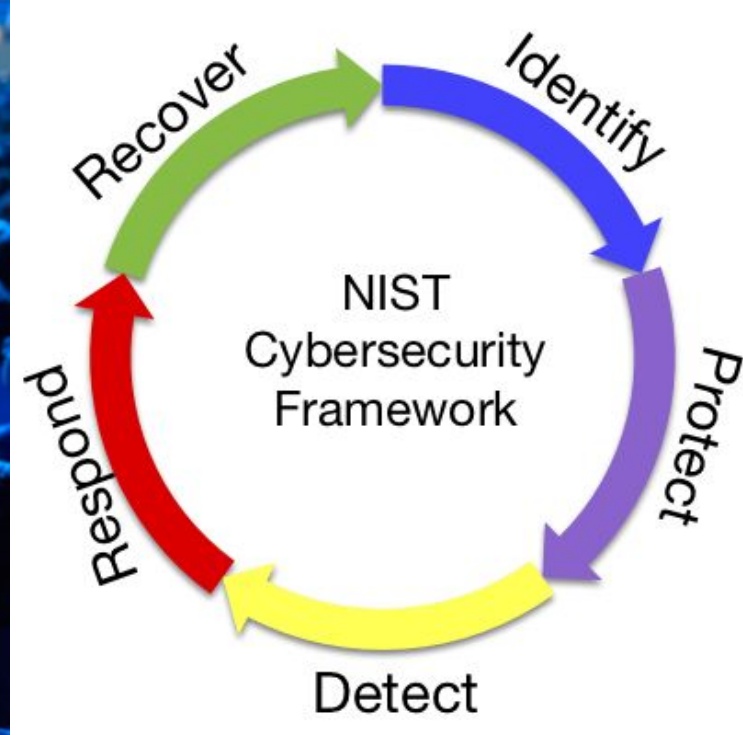
## *Navigating Your Career in Cybersecurity*

Katie Knowles  
Manager - Threat Response, PwC



# Is this Cybersecurity?





*And this...?*

“

"If you know the enemy and know  
yourself you need not fear the results of a  
hundred battles."

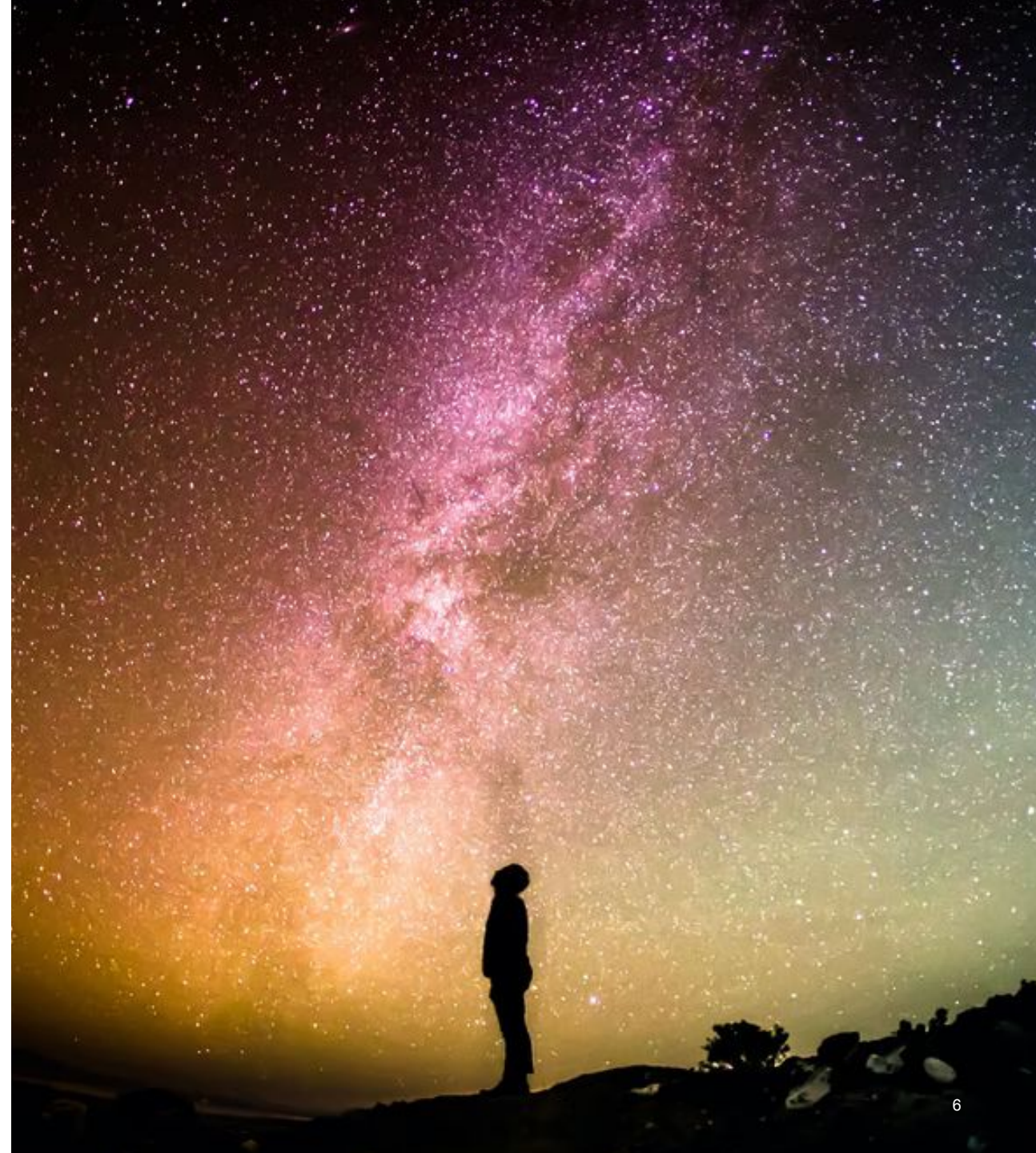
-Sun Tzu

# ***Different Roles in Security***

- There's more to cybersecurity than the stereotypes we think about.
- Roles can include...
  - Security Operations & Incident Response
  - Penetration Testing & Red Teaming
  - Security Engineering
  - Security Auditing
  - Security Governance, Risk, & Compliance
  - CISO & Security Management
  - The list goes on!
- New work is always emerging through trends like cloud security or new compliance requirements.
- All require knowledge of security, but not all to the same depth or in the same areas.

# *Where to Start?*

1. What do *you* want?
2. Roles: What's out there?
3. Direction: What's your focus?
4. Challenges: How to solve problems.
5. Professionalism: Rock your role!



# About Us

## PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Cyber Team

- Internal Firm Services (IFS)
- Manages internal cybersecurity for PwC's global network of firms
- Threat Response, Threat Intelligence, Vulnerability Management, Product, & many other teams!
- Support of **284,000+** users

## Threat Response

- 24x7 Incident Response
- Threat Hunting
- Detection Engineering
- Process Improvements
- Team trainings, both internal & external



## Speaker

Katie Knowles

- Manager, Threat Response
- BSEE, Rochester Institute of Technology
- OSCP, GPEN, GCSA
- Previously: Security Engineer, Penetration Tester & Consultant

# What do you want?

- When you know what you want, the right opportunities will be obvious.
- Starting this *before* you're working full-time is easiest.
- Some questions you could ask:
  - What draws you to cybersecurity?
  - What are you hoping to learn? Earn?
  - What are your strengths?
  - What company culture are you looking for? Coworkers? Manager?
  - What would you aim for in 2-5 years?
- Don't worry about perfection!
- Your answers will likely change over time, but will keep you steady.



"Starting an Infosec Career - The Megamix", Lesley Carhart

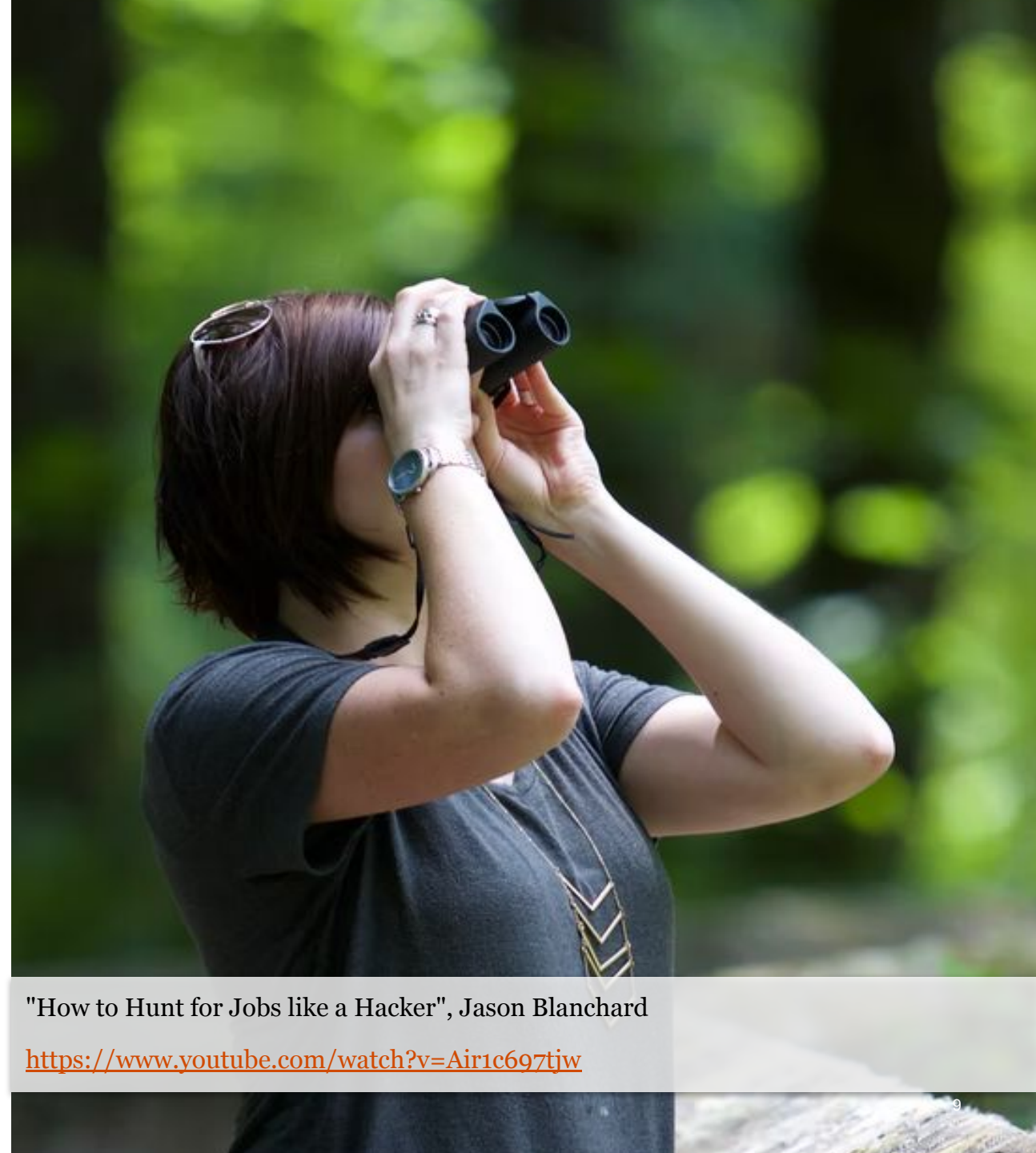
<https://tisiphone.net/2015/10/12/starting-an-infosec-career-the-megamix-chapters-1-3/>

"The Path to a Cybersecurity Governance Career", ISACA

<https://www.isaca.org/resources/news-and-trends/isaca-now-blog/2016/the-path-to-a-cyber-security-governance-career>

# *What's out there?*

- Research opportunities online, checking major sites and individual companies.
- Copy descriptions of interest, & take notes:
  - What do I like about this role?
  - What skills are required?
  - What kind of culture does this company have?
  - How common is this role?
- This will help you understand what employers are looking for.
- Focus on themes in skills.
- This is a great time to network:
  - Reach out to new contacts politely asking if they can speak about their role.
  - Set a time limit, be polite, and follow up!
- Test roles with internships.

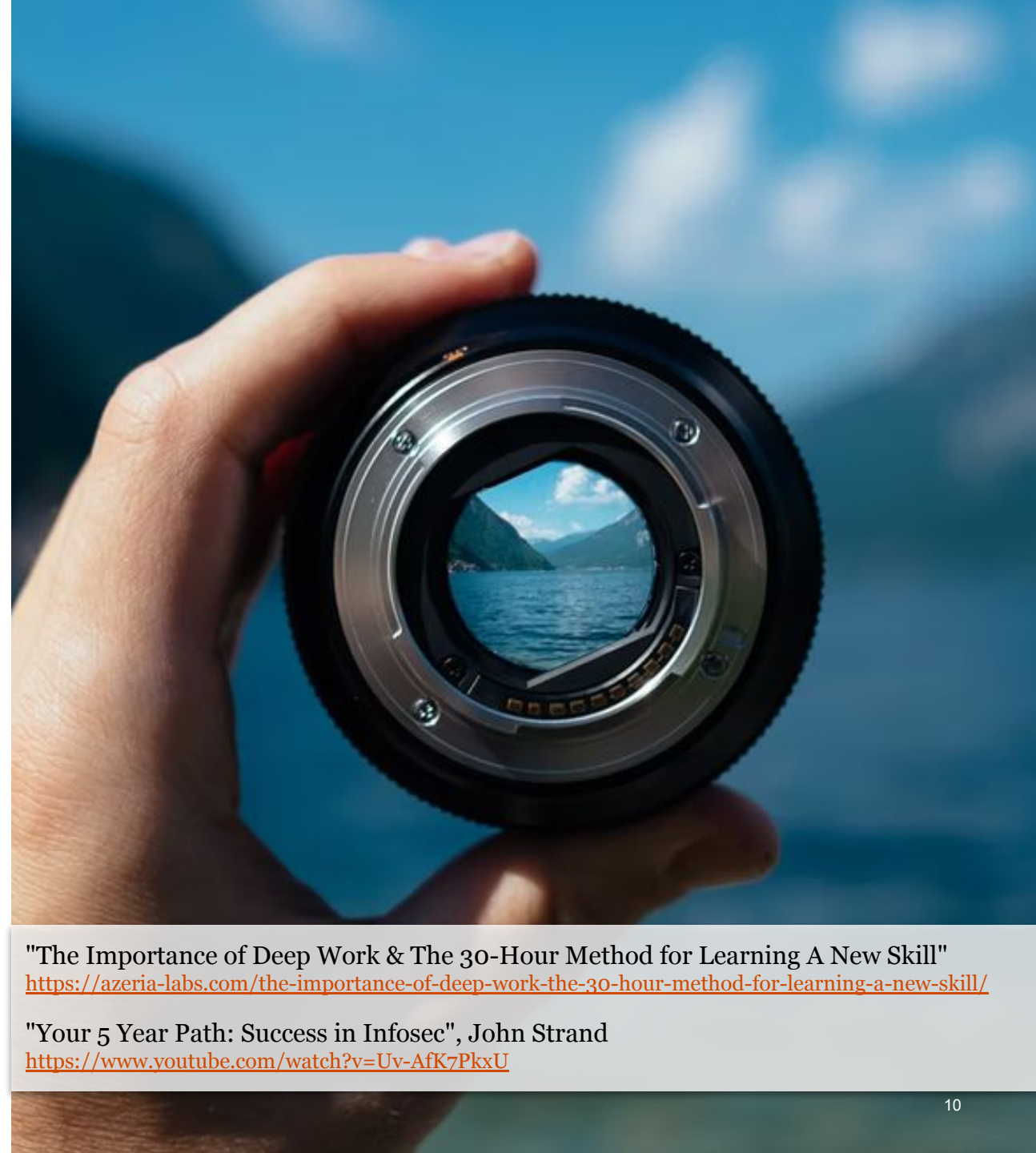


"How to Hunt for Jobs like a Hacker", Jason Blanchard

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Air1c697tjw>

# *What's your focus?*

- Review your skills of interest and job listing reconnaissance.
- What skills will you need?
- What foundations are required?
  - Networking?
  - Systems Administration?
  - Scripting or Coding?
  - Compliance Frameworks?
- Focus on one topic at a time.
- For your focus, take time on:
  - Study (or certification)
  - Talks, research, or challenges
  - 1+ project, blog post, personal research...
- Time to enjoy your topic will keep you energized about the future.



"The Importance of Deep Work & The 30-Hour Method for Learning A New Skill"  
<https://azeria-labs.com/the-importance-of-deep-work-the-30-hour-method-for-learning-a-new-skill/>

"Your 5 Year Path: Success in Infosec", John Strand  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uv-AfK7PkxU>

# *How to solve problems*

- Work and study will bring challenges, both with technology and with business.
- Any challenge can provide practice.
- Reflect on challenges as you solve them:
  - Is this problem technical, or non-technical?
  - What *exactly* am I looking to solve or learn?
  - Why is/Isn't it working? What have I tried?
  - What do I know about the problem? What don't I know yet?
  - Have I seen a similar problem in the past?
- Take notes on solutions as you learn!
- Review how others have solved problems.
- Look for problems to use as opportunities.
- This will build skills, both in your studies and in the workplace.

# *Rock your role!*

- Build non-technical skills alongside technical: Time management, writing, speaking, networking...
- Find informal mentors inside and outside your company.
- Look for chances to increase your scope.
- Get to know the business.
- Watch for what projects & people do well. How can we emulate it?
- Leave roles and employers on good terms.
- Stay curious, & try to learn everything you can before moving on.



"Manager Tools: Map of the Universe"

<https://www.manager-tools.com/map-of-the-universe>

Potential Reads:

"So Good They Can't Ignore You", Cal Newport; "The First 90 Days", Michael Watkins

# Thank you

[pwc.com](https://pwc.com)

