



Three Easy, Free, & Great Educational Offerings

(100s of classes for Infosec Professionals)



There is no substitute for Experience, and Education can help build that Experience faster.

Many classes are expensive and VERY “worth it” – I’ve invested well over US\$10,000 personally in classes and other education myself in the last 6 months. That doesn’t include airfare, hotels, and more.

That said, there is a lot of absolutely free and world class education available.

There are Many Learning Options

The number of learning options have absolutely exploded.

Many organizations reward those who invest in themselves through learning, whether it’s formally or informally. Even if you are a contractor or consultant, your clients may reward or look favorably on you.

We are going to look at three of the most popular and world class free options available below!

1) Coursera

“Coursera provides universal access to the world’s best education, partnering with top universities and organizations to offer courses for anyone to take, for free.”

Simply put, Coursera rocks. I’ve just finished a Crypto course from Stanford and am planning on part II soon, hopefully a music course from the Berklee College of Music, and an *Introduction to Public Speaking* course from the University of Washington. Yes, I do lots of public speaking but am always looking to improve, and yes, I know crypto pretty well but can certainly learn much more. They have classes available in many languages.

2) Cybrary

Cybrary launched in January of 2015 and they say, “Our goal is to provide the opportunity to learn Cyber Security, to anyone, anywhere, who wants that opportunity.” They have free online courses, forums, and a job board, among other things. Some of the classes look absolutely great, although I haven’t taken any myself yet.

3) MIT OpenCourseWare

MIT OpenCourseWare is phenomenal and includes courses from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Besides technical courses, some interesting ones include Power and Negotiations and several courses on leadership. There is even a curious experimental course called Increasing Your Physical Intelligence, Enhancing Your Social Smarts.

Even More Options

Podcasts, Blogs, Newsletters

There are many fantastic free podcasts, blogs, and newsletters. I suggest you find ones you enjoy. I jump around and like to get info from different sources periodically. Here are some I always seem to come back to.

“[SANS NewsBites](#) is a semiweekly, high-level executive summary of the most important news articles that have been published on computer security during the last week. Each news item is very briefly summarized and includes a reference on the web for detailed information, if possible.” – from *sans.org*. In five to ten minutes, I’m able to keep up with all the Infosec news. I read *SANS NewsBites* regularly.

[Paul’s Security Weekly](#) is always informative and amusing, and sometimes off the wall. Formerly known as *Paul Dot Com*. I’ve known Paul and his crew forever.

[Risky Business](#). “Lighthearted look at information security news and features” from Patrick Gray in Australia.

[Schneier on Security](#), with Bruce Schneier really needs no introduction. I interviewed him once for a book on his strange habit of blogging about squid, the creature, every Friday. Hey, we are all a little strange, definitely including Bruce.

Udemy

Udemy has all kinds of classes, most of which are quite inexpensive. They include classes by some Rock Stars like Guy Kawasaki and Seth Godin. I have taken some great ones from Udemy. A hint with Udemy is to Google for Udemy coupons and you can often take any course at a significant discount. They have dozens of security courses, some quite specialized.

Other Commercial Offerings

Of course there are lots of commercial offerings. I'm partial to SANS classes since, among other things, they help pay my bills and I teach several of their classes. There are plenty of other great offerings out there, depending on what you are looking for.

Blackhat and other 'cons are other great sources of information, sometimes including formal classes as well as great information in more common short conference type presentations.

Many organizations sponsor onsite classes and yours may also.