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Analyst Program

A SANS 2021 Report Top Skills Analysts Need to Master

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As more organizations invest in improving their security operations, either building their own SOC or through managed security services, the demand for security-related roles is higher than ever, expecting to reach 3.5 million unfulfilled positions by 2021, according to a [Cybersecurity Jobs Report](#).

But from all of the coolest jobs in the security industry, security analysts stand out from the rest. Just in the U.S., the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) reports that the employment of information security analysts is projected to grow 32% from 2018 to 2028, much faster than the average for all occupations. As one of the highest-paid jobs in the field, security analysts must become masters of all trades, becoming “all-around defenders,” highly competent in threat detection, while maintaining excellent analytical and communication skills. But what are the technical and nontechnical skills required to acquire mastery in this role? And how can industry security solutions augment analysts’ capabilities to become more effective?

In this paper, SANS author, instructor and analyst Ismael Valenzuela, will answer these questions and discuss the top skills security analysts need to master to be effective at defending organizations across endpoints, networks and the cloud.

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About the Author



Ismael Valenzuela, SANS Certified Instructor, [@aboutsecurity](#)

Since he founded one of the first IT Security consultancies in Spain, Ismael Valenzuela has participated as a security professional in numerous projects across the globe over the past 19 years. Prior to his current role as Senior Principal Engineer at McAfee, where he leads research on threat hunting using machine-learning and expert-system driven investigations, Ismael led the delivery of SOC, IR & Forensics services for the Foundstone Services team within Intel globally. Previously, Ismael worked as Global IT Security Manager for iSOFT Group Ltd, one of the world’s largest providers of healthcare IT solutions, managing their security operations in more than 40 countries.

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