



Women in Cybersecurity: Challenges, Successes, and Future Insights

PRESENTED BY

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Highlights

1. The Current Landscape of Women in Cybersecurity
2. Challenges Women Face in Tech Fields
3. Successful Female Role Models in Cybersecurity
4. Overcoming Challenges
5. Sharing Experiences and Insights
6. Job Opportunities For Women In Cybersecurity

The Current Landscape of Women in Cybersecurity

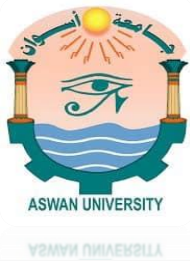


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1. The Current Landscape of Women in Cybersecurity

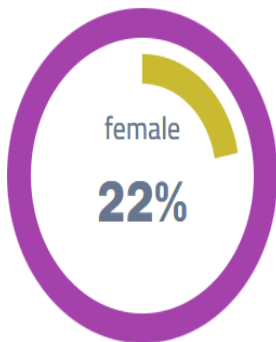
- The field of **cybersecurity** has experienced **rapid growth** over the past decade, driven by the rising number of cyber threats and the need for skilled professionals to combat them.
- Despite this growth, women remain underrepresented in the field.



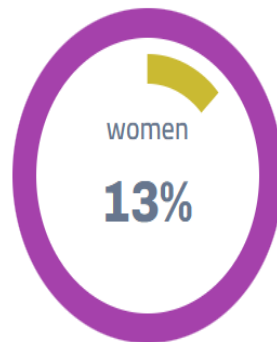
The gender gap in cybersecurity

In the post-COVID era, the perception of cybersecurity's importance has significantly evolved, particularly within the private sector. The proliferation of cyber threats and vulnerabilities has also led to a rise in job opportunities within the field. However, gender equality remains a challenge in this sector, as it continues to be male-dominated.

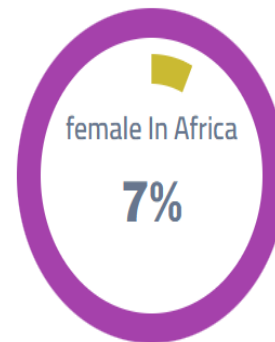
Recent statistics from 2023 reveal the following:



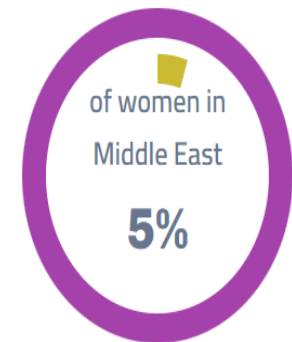
of the cybersecurity workforce



in senior roles

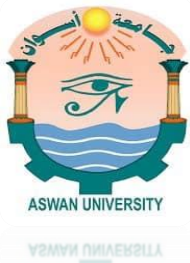


of the cybersecurity workforce



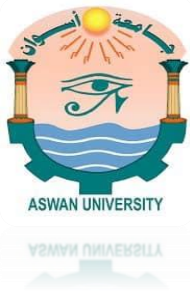
In the sector

This percentage, though an improvement from previous years, highlights the need for continued efforts to promote gender diversity in the industry.



The Current Landscape of Women in Cybersecurity

- One notable trend is the **increasing recognition** of the value that **women bring** to **cybersecurity** roles.
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- Organizations are beginning to understand that **diverse teams are more innovative** and **better** equipped to tackle complex security challenges.
- There has been a push to **encourage** more **women** to pursue **careers** in **cybersecurity** through scholarships, mentorship programs, and industry initiatives aimed at closing the gender gap.



The Current Landscape of Women in Cybersecurity

- Another positive development is the emergence of **female-led cybersecurity companies** and initiatives.
- Women are taking on **leadership** roles, contributing to **research**, and influencing policy decisions in the cybersecurity landscape.
- This shift is not only **empowering** women but also **inspiring** the next generation to break barriers and enter the field.

Challenges Women Face in Tech Fields



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تواجهها المرأة في
المجالات التقنية



2. Challenges Women Face in Tech Fields

Despite advancements in diversity and inclusion efforts, women in technology fields, including cybersecurity, still face numerous challenges.

- One of the most significant **obstacles** is the **pervasive gender bias** that often manifests in hiring practices, promotion opportunities, and workplace culture.
 - Women frequently have to prove their competence more than their **male counterparts**, leading to **higher stress** levels and a sense of isolation.



2. Challenges Women Face in Tech Fields

- Also, the **lack** of representation in **leadership** positions.
 - While women are entering technology fields at higher rates, they are often **underrepresented** in senior roles such as Chief Information Security Officers (**CISOs**) and other executive positions.
 - This lack of visibility can make it **difficult** for women to **find role models** and mentors who can guide them in their career development.



2. Challenges Women Face in Tech Fields

- **Work-life balance** is also a concern for many women in tech.
 - The demanding nature of cybersecurity roles, which often require **long hours** and **rapid responses** to emerging threats, can make it challenging to balance professional responsibilities with personal life.
 - Additionally, imposter syndrome—a psychological pattern where individuals doubt their accomplishments—is prevalent among women in tech, further compounding the challenges they face.



2. Challenges Women Face in Tech Fields

- Addressing these issues **requires** a **collective** effort from **organizations**, **industry** leaders, and **society** as a whole.
 - Creating inclusive work environments, providing mentorship opportunities, and actively promoting women to leadership roles are essential steps toward breaking down these barriers.

Successful Female Role Models in Cybersecurity



نماذج ناجحة من
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السيبراني



3. Successful Female Role Models in Cybersecurity

- **Basma Ahmadush** is cybersecurity consultant with more than 8 years of experience in the cybersecurity domain.
- She helped in establishing a new CS performance section in communications industry and helped as well establishing a new CS department in insurance company from scratch.
- She has trained over 2000+ employees on CS awareness.
- She is **a co-founder of women in cyber Security of Middle East (WiCSME)**, and leader of Saudi affiliate for WiCSME
- She has been awarded by MESA as women leader in CyberSecurity of Middle East 2019.





3. Successful Female Role Models in Cybersecurity

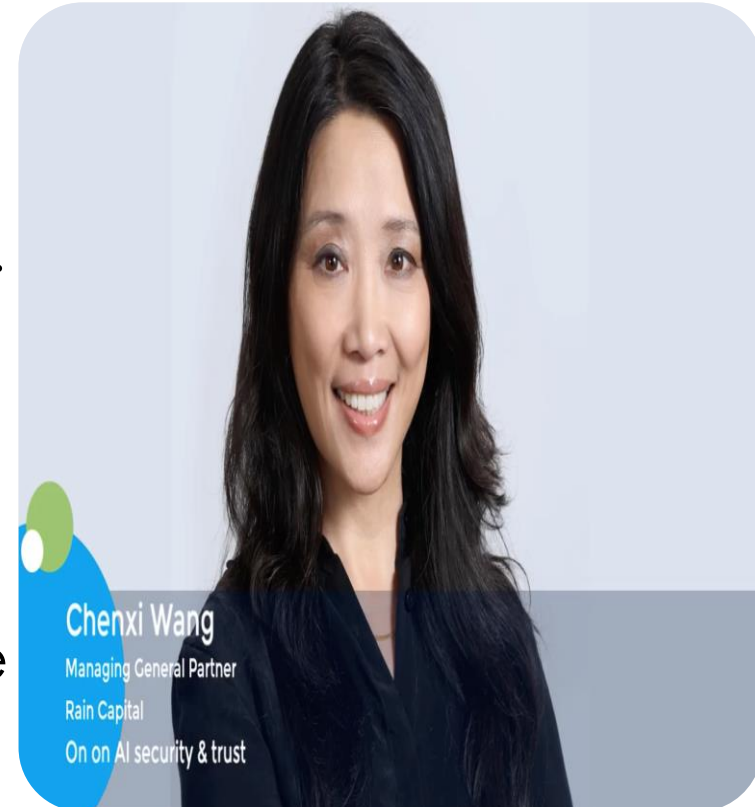
- One prominent figure is **Parisa Tabriz**, known as the '**Security Princess**' of **Google**.
- **Director of Engineering for Google Chrome**, Tabriz leads efforts to enhance browser security and protect millions of users worldwide.
- Her innovative approach and leadership have earned her widespread respect in the cybersecurity community.





3. Successful Female Role Models in Cybersecurity

- **Chenxi Wang**, founder and general partner at Rain Capital, is a respected thought leader and advocate for women in technology.
- Her work in promoting cybersecurity innovation and supporting female entrepreneurs has made a significant impact on the industry.
- Wang's efforts highlight the importance of fostering a supportive environment for women in cybersecurity.



Chenxi Wang

Managing General Partner

Rain Capital

On AI security & trust



3. Successful Female Role Models in Cybersecurity

- Dr **Jackie Riley** scoops top accolade at the Security Serious Unsung Heroes award
Dr Jackie Riley, Head of Department for Cyber Security and Networks at Glasgow Caledonian University, has just clinched a top accolade at the Security Serious Unsung Heroes Awards 2021.
- Dr. Jackie Riley, former Head of Cyber security Dep. at GCU, winner of Security Serious Unsung Hero of Best Educator Award 2021, and nominee for Outstanding Women in Cyber 2019 will share her success story in the cyber security field.



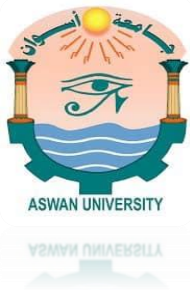
Overcoming

Challenges



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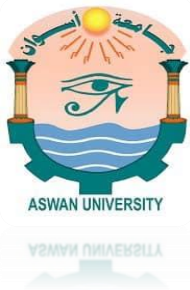
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4. Overcoming Challenges

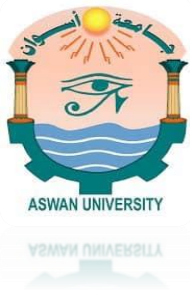
Overcoming the challenges women face in cybersecurity and other tech fields requires a multifaceted approach, involves individuals, organizations, and the broader community.

- **fostering a culture of inclusion and respect in the workplace.** Companies must actively promote diversity through unbiased hiring practices, equitable promotion opportunities, and the establishment of support networks for women.



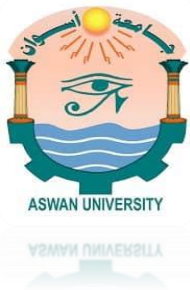
4. Overcoming Challenges

- **Mentorship and sponsorship programs** are crucial for empowering women to succeed.
 - Mentors can provide guidance, share valuable insights, and help women navigate the complexities of their careers.
 - Sponsors, on the other hand, actively advocate for women, opening doors to career advancement and leadership opportunities. Establishing formal mentorship initiatives within organizations can make a significant impact.



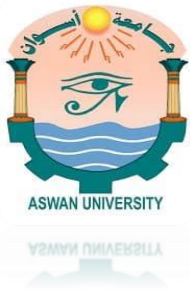
4. Overcoming Challenges

- **Educational initiatives and continuous learning** are also essential for breaking down barriers. Providing scholarships, training programs, and certification opportunities can equip women with the skills needed to thrive in cybersecurity roles. Organizations that invest in the professional development of their employees contribute to a more diverse and capable workforce.



4. Overcoming Challenges

- **Building a supportive community where women can share their experiences, challenges, and successes** fosters a sense of belonging. Industry groups, online forums, and networking events provide valuable platforms for collaboration and learning. By connecting with other women in cybersecurity, individuals can gain inspiration, build confidence, and find allies who advocate for their success.



4. Overcoming Challenges

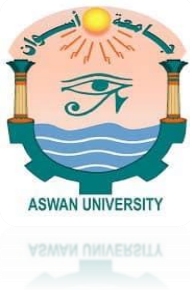
Ultimately, overcoming challenges requires a **collective effort**.

- By championing diversity, supporting career development, and fostering a positive workplace culture, the cybersecurity industry can create an environment where women can thrive and contribute to the industry's growth.

Sharing
Experiences
and Insights

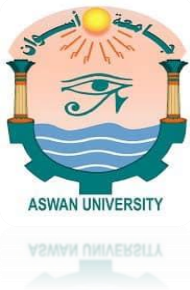


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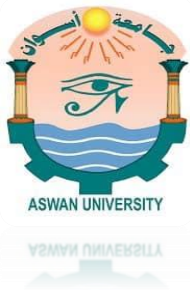
5. Sharing Experiences and Insights

- **Encouraging women** in cybersecurity to **share** their experiences and insights is vital for fostering a more inclusive and collaborative industry.
 - Personal stories of success, failure, and lessons learned provide valuable guidance for others navigating similar challenges. These narratives can also inspire newcomers and help break down the stereotypes surrounding women in technology.



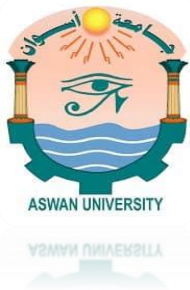
5. Sharing Experiences and Insights

- One effective way to **promote** sharing is **through** community events, such as **conferences, panels,** and **networking sessions.**
 - These platforms provide opportunities for women to connect, share knowledge, and gain exposure to diverse perspectives. Organizations that host and support such events play a crucial role in creating spaces where women feel empowered to voice their opinions.



5. Sharing Experiences and Insights

- **Online forums and social media communities** have also become valuable resources for sharing insights.
 - These digital spaces allow women from different parts of the world to connect, collaborate, and exchange ideas. By participating in discussions and sharing experiences, women can build a supportive network that fosters growth and learning.



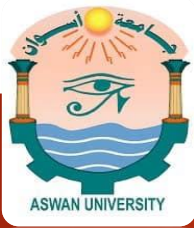
5. Sharing Experiences and Insights

- In conclusion, **sharing experiences and insights helps create a sense of community and belonging.**
 - By amplifying women's voices and stories, the cybersecurity industry can become more inclusive, dynamic, and innovative. Everyone benefits from a culture that values diverse perspectives.

Job Opportunities For Women In Cybersecurity



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Hints About Job Market

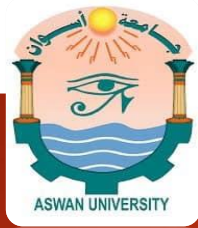
- ▶ There are many job opportunities for women in cybersecurity across various fields, depending on their skills, experience, and interests. Some key roles include:
 - ▶ **1. Entry-Level Cybersecurity Jobs**
 - ▶ These roles are great for those just starting out:
 - **Cybersecurity Analyst** – Monitors and defends systems from cyber threats.
 - **Security Operations Center (SOC) Analyst** – Works in a SOC to detect and respond to security incidents.
 - **IT Security Specialist** – Focuses on securing IT infrastructure.
 - **Penetration Tester (Ethical Hacker)** – Tests systems for vulnerabilities.
 - **Compliance & Risk Analyst** – Ensures organizations follow cybersecurity regulations.



Hints About Job Market

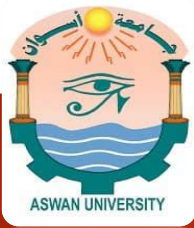
▶ 2. Mid-Level and Advanced Cybersecurity Jobs

- ▶ With experience, women can move into specialized or leadership roles:
 - **Incident Response Analyst** – Investigates and mitigates cyber incidents.
 - **Threat Intelligence Analyst** – Researches cyber threats and attack trends.
 - **Cloud Security Engineer** – Secures cloud-based systems.
 - **Identity & Access Management (IAM) Specialist** – Manages user access and authentication.
 - **Cybersecurity Consultant** – Advises organizations on improving security.



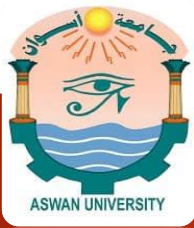
Hints About Job Market

- ▶ **3. Leadership and Executive Cybersecurity Jobs**
- ▶ For experienced professionals looking to lead in cybersecurity:
 - **Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)** – Oversees an organization's entire security strategy.
 - **Security Architect** – Designs secure IT infrastructures.
 - **Forensic Analyst** – Investigates cybercrimes and digital evidence.
 - **Cybersecurity Policy & Governance Expert** – Develops security policies and ensures compliance.



Hints About Job Market

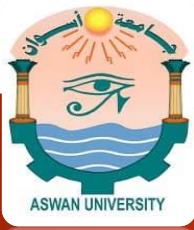
- ▶ **4. Specialized Cybersecurity Fields for Women**
- ▶ Women can also explore niche areas:
 - **AI & Machine Learning in Cybersecurity** – Uses AI to detect threats.
 - **Cryptography & Encryption** – Develops secure communication systems.
 - **Industrial Control Systems (ICS) Security** – Protects infrastructure like power grids.
 - **Security Awareness Training & Education** – Helps educate employees on cybersecurity best practices.



Hints About Job Market

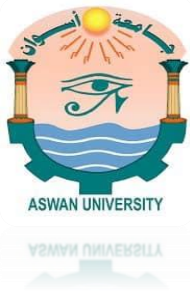
How to Get Started in Cybersecurity?

- **Certifications** – Earning certifications like **CompTIA Security+**, **CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker)**, **CISSP**, or **CISM** can help break into the field.
- **Online Courses & Bootcamps** – Platforms like Coursera, Udemy, and Cybrary offer cybersecurity training.
- **Networking & Mentorship** – Joining communities like **WiCyS (Women in CyberSecurity)**, **SANS CyberTalent**, and **local cybersecurity meetups** can be helpful.
- **Internships & Entry-Level Roles** – Gaining hands-on experience through internships is a great way to start.



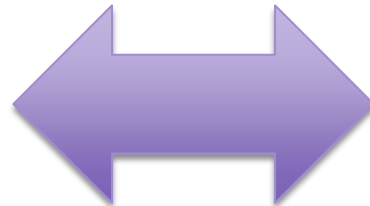
Average Salaries in Cybersecurity

Job Title	Annual Salary (USD)	Experience Level
Cybersecurity Analyst	\$70,000 - \$100,000	Entry-Level
SOC Analyst	\$65,000 - \$90,000	Entry-Level
Cybersecurity Engineer	\$116,000 - \$208,000	Mid-Level
Application Security Engineer	\$146,000 - \$177,000	Mid-Level
Information Security Manager	\$150,000 - \$225,000	Senior-Level
Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)	\$250,000 - \$565,000+	Executive



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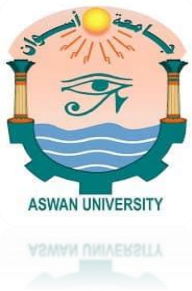




Thank you
for Listening

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Quiz



References

- ▶ • Sprintzeal: <https://www.sprintzeal.com/blog/types-of-cyber-security-jobs>
- ▶ • Mondo: <https://mondo.com/insights/highest-paid-cyber-security-jobs-salaries>
- ▶ • WSJ: <https://www.wsj.com/articles/pay-rises-for-cyber-chiefs-as-hacks-regulatory-pressure-increase-1bf737d9>