

EXIN Information Security Officer

Safeguarding Information, Strengthening Security

The era of security and trust

Recent reports from the European Union highlight an increasingly complex and diverse security threat landscape. According to the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), ransomware (81.1%) and data breaches (15.2%) have emerged as the top cybersecurity threats in Europe. Additionally, social engineering tactics such as phishing and supply chain breaches are on the rise, further complicating the information security environment (2025)



These threats pose significant risks to businesses, with the potential to disrupt operations, expose sensitive customer or intellectual property data, and lead to regulatory fines or reputational damage. Data breaches and leaks often result in violations of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and other compliance standards, leading to penalties and reducing customer trust. Even unintentional mishandling of data by employees, deriving from poor information governance, can result in compliance breaches and create operational vulnerabilities. Weak governance structures and inadequate controls further amplify these risks, leaving organizations exposed to financial losses, legal sanctions, and diminished stakeholder confidence.

To address these challenges, the ISO/IEC 27001 standard provides a globally recognized framework for establishing and maintaining an effective Information Security Management System. This comprehensive framework integrates policies, people, processes, and technology to help organizations manage information security risks. By conducting structured risk assessments and focusing on continuous improvement, ISO/IEC 27001 ensures the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data. In doing so, it not only strengthens an organization's security resilience but also enhances its compliance posture.

Central to the successful implementation of such security measures is the role of the Information Security Officer. This role is critical in developing and maintaining robust security controls, managing risks, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. As different industries face unique security challenges, companies require tailored approaches to mitigate risks effectively. In highly regulated sectors, in particular, organizations are increasingly recognizing the need for a dedicated Information Security Officer to prevent cyber incidents, maintain compliance, and reinforce overall security. As a result, this role has become highly in demand, reflecting the growing importance of safeguarding information in today's digital landscape.

The Information Security Officer Role

An Information Security Officer experienced in ISO 27001 plays a critical role in fostering business continuity and building trust. This professional ensures that security is seamlessly integrated into every aspect of an organization's operations, from disaster recovery planning to supplier management. Moreover, an Information Security Officer also guides organizations through complex regulations, ensuring compliance with key frameworks. For instance, ISO 27001's risk-management practices directly support adherence to the NIS2 Directive, as well as the GDPR.

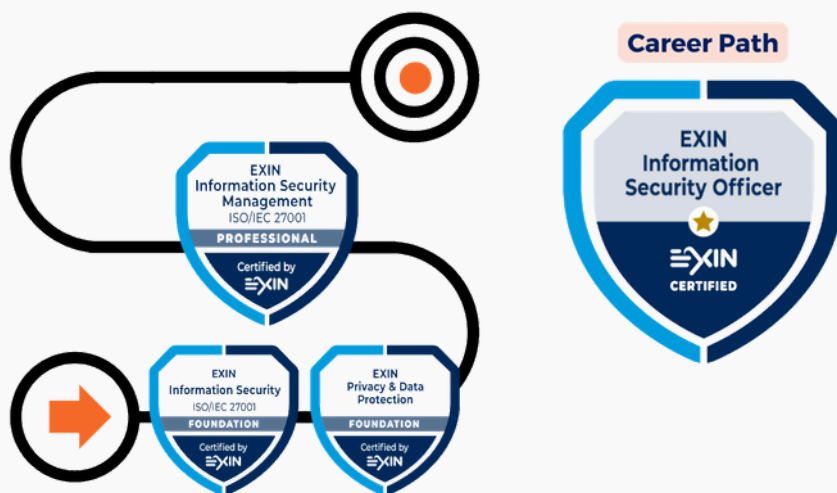
To achieve compliance, Information Security Officers must translate regulatory requirements, such as risk management and incident reporting, into actionable practices. Similarly, they play a vital role in implementing GDPR's mandates for personal data security by demonstrating the application of appropriate measures. By doing so, an Information Security Officer helps organizations build trust among regulators, partners, and customers, showcasing their commitment to security and privacy. The demand for Information Security Officers has been growing sharply, driven by digital transformation and increasing regulation. The System Safety Society reported that in 2024 an Information Security Officers command competitive salaries, earning an average of \$109,000 annually in the USA, a figure that has shown consistent growth over the years.

The EXIN Information Security Career Path

The EXIN Information Security Officer career path equips professionals with knowledge and skills to implement effective information security measures and risk management, while keeping a focus on data protection and privacy.

The Career Path consists of the following building blocks:

- The EXIN Information Security Foundation certification
- The EXIN Privacy & Data Protection Foundation certification
- The EXIN Information Security Management Professional certification



EXIN Information Security Officer

Upon completion of these three certifications, the candidate will be automatically issued with the EXIN Information Security Officer Career Path certification.

The EXIN Information Security Officer career path strategically integrates these three critical certifications to create a holistic, multi-dimensional set of expertise that meets the comprehensive demands protection data.

- **EXIN Privacy & Data Protection Foundation** enhances knowledge of data privacy laws, with an emphasis on GDPR compliance. Understanding data protection is crucial for managing privacy-related risks inherent in AI systems, particularly those using personal data for profiling, decision-making, and automation. This certification ensures professionals have the knowledge to manage consent, ensure data anonymisation, and uphold individual privacy rights effectively.
- **EXIN Information Security Foundation** establishes a foundational understanding of managing information security according to ISO 27001 standards. Professionals with information security management knowledge are equipped to identify, analyze, and mitigate risks associated with data breaches and cybersecurity threats, which are especially critical in AI-driven environments where vast amounts of sensitive data are processed and analyzed.
- **EXIN Information Security Management Professional** confirms that the professional can manage organizational, people-related, physical and technological information security risks, while respecting stakeholder interests. Professionals with advanced information security management knowledge are equipped to develop, implement, and maintain robust information security processes that align with organizational goals, comply with regulatory requirements, and adapt to evolving threats.

The EXIN Information Security Officer Career Path

By combining these certifications, the EXIN Information Security Officer career path provides essential knowledge of both data protection law and information security management. This integrated approach merges security governance, risk management, and privacy compliance, enabling professionals to bridge the gap between privacy regulations and information security.

It equips them to design and implement resilient security programs, safeguard data assets in compliance with GDPR, and address complex security challenges. By training across these domains, professionals gain the skills required to meet the multifaceted responsibilities of a modern security officer, ensuring regulatory compliance and robust data protection.



MORE ABOUT THE EXIN CAREER PATHS

EXIN is committed to supporting lifelong learning and empowering professionals throughout their career development. To help guide their lifelong learning journey, EXIN has introduced a set of Career Path certifications, embracing the S-Shaped Professional model.



Characteristics of the S-Shaped Professional include:

- The 'S' flows like a river, representing a fluid and flexible **lifelong learning journey**, encouraging professionals to master new skills and upskill & reskill as they grow.
- The 'S' also stands for 'soft skills', such as empathy, emotional intelligence, and **human-centricity** – which are essential for modern workplaces.
- There is an emphasis on **NextGen skills** such as adaptability, collaboration and innovation.

Further information

For further information on the EXIN Career Paths, please visit our website at <https://www.exin.com/career-paths/> or do not hesitate to reach out to us at: candidatesupport@exin.com