

# Using the NICE Framework

## What is the NICE Framework?

The National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (NICE) Cybersecurity Workforce Framework, [NIST Special Publication 800-181](#), is a nationally focused resource that categorizes and describes cybersecurity work. It establishes a common lexicon that describes cybersecurity work and workers regardless of where or for whom the work is performed. The NICE Framework applies across public, private, and academic sectors.

## Tell me more

### The NICE Framework is comprised of the following components:

- Categories (7) – A high-level grouping of common cybersecurity functions
- Specialty Areas (33) – Distinct areas of cybersecurity work
- Work Roles (52) – The most detailed groupings of cybersecurity work comprised of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) required to perform tasks in a Work Role
- Capability Indicators – A combination of education, certification, training, experiential learning, and continuous learning attributes that could indicate a greater likelihood of success for given Work Role

## Who should use it?

The NICE Framework helps:

<b>Employers</b>	Assess their cybersecurity workforce, identify critical gaps in cybersecurity staffing, and improve position descriptions and recruitment
<b>Current and future cybersecurity workers</b>	Explore Work Roles, KSAs, and tasks valued by employers for in-demand cybersecurity positions.
<b>Academic advisors and staffing specialists</b>	Support students and job seekers in designing their path towards a job in cybersecurity
<b>Training and certification providers</b>	Help current and future members of the cybersecurity workforce gain and demonstrate the KSAs
<b>Education providers</b>	Reference the NICE Framework to develop curriculum, courses, seminars, and research aligned to NICE Framework KSAs and Tasks
<b>Technology providers</b>	Identify cybersecurity Work Roles, KSAs, and specific Tasks associated with the services and hardware/software products they supply

## How can I learn more?

Review the following resources:

[NICE Framework One Pager](#) – a quick way to connect with and understand the framework. A document to print and share with those new to the NICE Framework

[NICE Framework 101](#) (3<sup>rd</sup> video down)—an in-depth training on the framework, how to use it and its application.