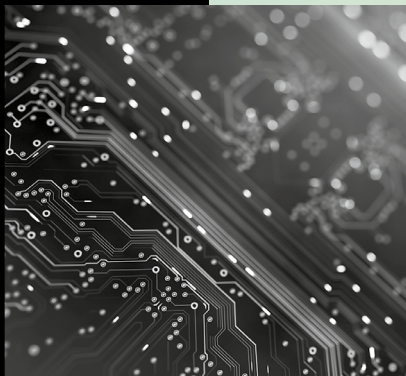


OVER 18's

YOUR FUTURE IS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Develop your cyber skills



**CYBER
CHOICES**



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www.cyberchoices.uk

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Hello

THANK YOU FOR
PICKING UP THIS
BROCHURE

It's been designed to introduce the Cyber Choices programme and explain how it can help you find exciting and legal ways to develop your cyber skills. We hope it's an interesting read...

Cyber Choices is a programme delivered by the Regional Cyber Choices Network and Local Police Force Cyber Teams, co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency.

The focus of the Cyber Choices network is on cyber dependent crime e.g. illegal hacking of computers and networks, denial of service and the writing / distribution / deployment of malware.



Introduction to Cyber Choices

The key aims are...

- Explaining the difference between legal and illegal cyber activity.
- Encouraging individuals to make informed choices in their use of technology.
- Increasing awareness of the Computer Misuse Act 1990.
- Promoting positive, legal cyber opportunities.

A gamer might think a DDoS attack on a fellow gamer is a joke, however it is a cyber crime. A hacker may take down a service without appreciating the serious consequences of their actions.

People with an interest, talent or curiosity in gaming, coding or other cyber related disciplines can find themselves in a position where, unknowingly or otherwise, they have

broken the law. We want to prevent this.

Cyber tools and techniques can be used legally or illegally. This brochure explains the laws under the Computer Misuse Act to help readers understand what the boundaries are. It also provides details of some available resources where cyber skills can be used legally.

The resources within this brochure provide a good start for developing skills. Internet searches will help you find many more similar sites, with a wealth of free learning resources and challenges. Many of these are aimed at encouraging people into a legal career in the cyber industry because there is a huge shortage of people in this sector. This means that jobs, from entry level and upwards, are well paid with fantastic prospects.

Surely a much better option than a criminal record.

The Computer Misuse Act 1990

Section 1

Unauthorised access to computer material.

Section 2

Unauthorised access with intent to commit or facilitate commission of further offences.

Section 3

Unauthorised acts with intent to impair, or with recklessness as to impairing, operation of computer.

Section 3ZA

Unauthorised acts causing, or creating risk of, serious damage.

Section 3A

Making, supplying or obtaining articles for use in offence under section 1, 3 or 3ZA.

A criminal record could affect your education and further career prospects so get to know the legal boundaries whilst online.

Read more on page 14

For example



You watch your friend enter their username and password. You remember their login details and without their permission, later login and read all their messages.



Your friend leaves their tablet on the sofa. Without their permission, you access their gaming account and buy game credits with the attached credit card.



You are playing an online game with a friend who scores higher than you. You use a 'Booter' tool knowing it will knock them offline, so you can win the game.



You hack a phone company. Your hack stops some people phoning the Police when they are in danger. You didn't mean for this to happen but you were reckless.



You download software so you can bypass login credentials and hack into your friend's laptop, however you've not had a chance to use it yet.

Resources

The Cyber Choices website gives more information on cyber crime and preventing young people from committing it...

www.cyberchoices.uk

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

There are fun and challenging online activities available to legally test and develop your cyber skills whether or not you are considering a career in tech. We have provided a range of these over the next few pages.

CODING

Computer programming or 'Coding' can be described as writing instructions in a specific programming language that a computer follows to perform tasks.

Using coding, you can build software, create websites, run applications, design video games and so much more.

There are numerous online resources to allow anyone with an interest to learn how to code in any number of programming languages, such as Python, Java and HTML.

Online training

The online resources available don't just stop at coding there are loads more cyber skills that can be learned through interactive platforms that allow you to practice what you've learned in a safe to fail environment.

Cloud Computing, AI and Machine learning, Networking, Ethical Hacking, Digital Forensics and Scripting.

Some of these skills will become the building blocks for a career in cyber.

Check out these online platforms where you can sharpen your cyber skills www.cyberchoices.uk





Further education

If you have an interest in furthering your learning, the following resources provide a wealth of information.

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service has full details of university courses and entry requirements. The site also details apprenticeships. There are a number of institutions offering cyber security as a specialism.

www.ucas.com

NCSC

The National Cyber Security Centre website contains a lot of information on both academic and professional qualifications in cyber security.

www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/education-skills/schools

Future careers

Skills in coding, gaming, computer programming, cyber security or anything IT related are in high demand. There are many careers and opportunities available to anyone with an interest in these areas.

There are so many careers in Cyber out there and so much information available online. Why not get searching...What does a Special Operations Centre Analyst do? What skills do I need to become a penetration tester?

CREST

An international not-for-profit accreditation and certification body that represents and supports the technical information security market.

CREST has produced some careers guidance if you are looking to go into cyber security.

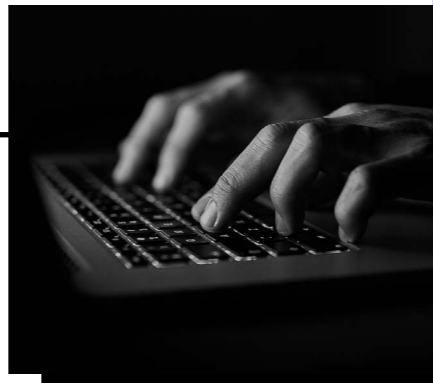
www.crest-approved.org/skills-certifications-careers/career-path/

Apprenticeships

These are available through college websites and the Government site below.

www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch

Future careers



Esports

Esports (electronic sports) is competitive video gaming where players play against each other in teams. Like with any other sport there are opportunities for individuals to learn and develop their core sports skills but also discipline, critical thinking, team working and communication skills.

Careers Service

The National Careers Service provides free and impartial advice, information and guidance on different careers including those in Cyber. The Service is available to anyone aged 13+ no matter what stage of the careers journey you're at.

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

Bug Bounties

Many companies now offer 'bug bounty' schemes. They offer financial incentives for hackers who find and report vulnerabilities in their systems so they can be rectified. These can be a great way for hackers to challenge their skills whilst making money. However, it is essential that the terms and conditions of these schemes are read and strictly adhered to. Failure to follow these or to report vulnerabilities correctly can result in individuals inadvertently committing crime.

There is often a crossover between those with an interest in cyber and those with an interest in video gaming and therefore esports offer a fun and unique alternative pathway to develop your skills and be part of a community.

British Esports

Established with a vision to promote and nurture future esports talent and shape the landscape of competitive gaming throughout the UK and internationally through developing grassroots esports, cutting edge curriculum and career pathways.

There are opportunities to represent your school, college or university through the British Esports Student Champs (age 12-19) or sat University through National Student Esports and to study esports qualifications such as the Esports Leadership Programme, engage with Esports as part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award or study esports full time in further and higher education through the Level 2 to Level 5 National and Higher National Qualifications in esports that support progression into a wide range of future careers. You can learn more by visiting the British Esports website

britishesports.org/esports-and-education/

And finally

We hope you found this Cyber Choices information useful. Used legally, skills in digital technology and computing can lead to an exciting and well paid career. Millions of cyber professionals are already needed and demand will only increase in the future.

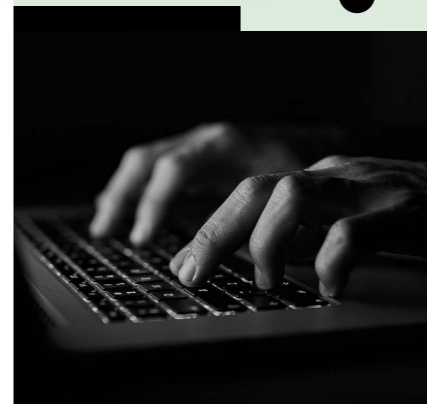
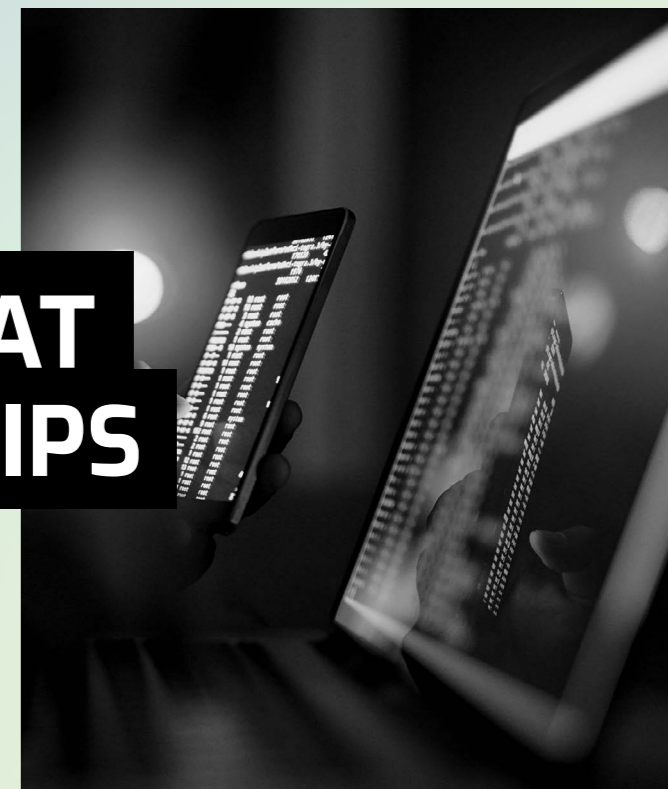
Whilst the prospect of pushing boundaries with your skills may seem exciting, an activity may seem ok because “everyone else is doing it”, or you have gained credibility following certain actions, UK law enforcement takes cyber crime seriously. So... Don't risk getting a criminal record. Don't risk throwing away a bright future by breaking the law.

Consequences of breaking the Computer Misuse Act 1990 may include:

- Receiving a visit and warning from the police or NCA officers
- Being arrested
- Getting a criminal record
- Having devices seized
- Being banned or limited in your internet use
- Being expelled from school
- Not being able to get the job you want
- Not being able to travel to certain countries

...or all of the above!

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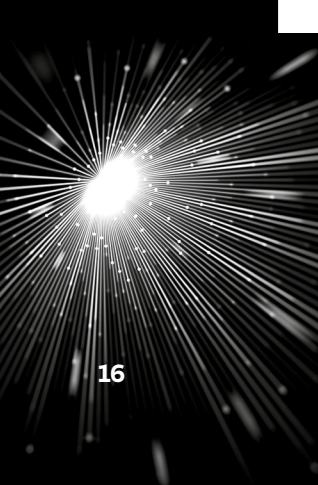
CYBER CHOICES



Get in touch

Cyber Choices is a programme delivered by the Regional Cyber Choices Network and Local Police Force Cyber Teams, co-ordinated by the National Crime Agency.

If you would like any further information or advice on Cyber Choices, please visit us at www.cyberchoices.uk for more resources and our contact details.



Notes





www.cyberchoices.uk

**Helping you
choose a
positive and
legal path**

