**Using NICE To Find My NICHE**

The [**NICE**](https://niccs.cisa.gov/workforce-development/nice-framework#:~:text=The%20NICE%20Framework%20is%20comprised%20of%20the%20following,required%20to%20perform%20tasks%20in%20a%20Work%20Role) Framework is a national resource that helps employers build their cybersecurity workforce with a common language for describing cybersecurity work and workers. It applies across public, private, and academic sectors.

The framework is laid out quite nicely (forgive the pun). It is made up of 7 Categories, which distinctively define multiple areas of cybersecurity work. Within these areas are detailed job roles that I have been exploring to find my niche in the cybersecurity industry.

The category that I would like to focus my career on is ‘Protect and Defend.’ P&D has four specialty areas: cyber defense analysis, cyber defense infrastructure support, incident response, and vulnerability assessment and management. The main one that caught my eye is [cyber defense infrastructure support](https://niccs.cisa.gov/workforce-development/nice-framework/specialty-areas/cyber-defense-infrastructure-support). A specialist in this area tests, implements, deploys, maintains, and administers the infrastructure hardware and software. I like this because it looks hands-on. I want to be active in whatever companies I work for to feel more purpose and accomplishment.

The category of slightest interest for me would be operate and maintain. The specialty areas for this are customer service and technical support, data management, knowledge management, network services, systems administration, and systems analysis. Don’t get me wrong, this is not a bad area. The only reason this is at the bottom of the list is that this is what I currently do for work. It was my specialty in the military as well.

Ultimately, The NICE Framework is an excellent resource for anybody looking to get into or pivot roles in cyber security. It breaks down every area down to the tee and even suggests training. As I continue my journey to find my niche, I will visit this site often.