I am currently in the last semester of my degree path and set to graduate with a major in cybersecurity from Old Dominion University. I will soon be entering the hiring pool for cybersecurity employment positions, and I thought it would be a good idea to research some of the positions I might be eligible for. I am eager to get out there in the field, test what I have learned, and continue learning cybersecurity skills to further my professional career.

I will address the qualifications needed for these positions first. One needs to start by considering their current skills set relative to the positions. These can include soft skills such as conflict resolution, time management, communication, adaptability, and organizational skills as well as more technical skills when building out a resume. If one needs additional training or upskilling, enrolling in a boot camp can provide in-demand skills reinforced in a simulated real-world environment. Projects completed here can then populate a professional eportfolio, which can be shared with prospective employers. This can be completed in a relatively short time and for less cost than traditional programs. The other route is the more traditional degree path where one can earn a bachelors' or masters' degree in either cybersecurity or computer science. While I intend to acquire my certificates later, I went the traditional route and obtained my bachelor's degree ("5 Entry-Level Cyber Security Jobs for Beginners").

Next, I will cover some of positions that are attainable with my skillset and entry level knowledge. A security analyst plays a pivotal role in maintaining the safety of business intelligence from malicious actors that seek to modify, view, or destroy data. They work to identify and fix flaws in existing security systems, often collaborating with multiple departments to develop new processes. Security specialists are assigned the responsibility of maintaining an organization's automated security systems and employee identification databases. Incident responders utilize digital forensics to investigate vulnerabilities and other security incidents. Cryptographers may have one of the more fascinating cybersecurity jobs out there. These professionals utilize specialized algorithms and ciphers to encrypt sensitive data to develop security systems. They protect the data from being destroyed, modified, copied, or intercepted by unauthorized agents. Security architects aid in the construction of enterprise-level information systems that meet strict security requirements. Security auditors perform the paramount duty of verifying security procedures, preserving system safety, and compiling reports. A penetration tester, or pentester, is responsible for locating existing issues of security within a company's information infrastructure. They are also commonly referred to as "ethical hackers" or security consultants ("Ten Entry-Level Jobs in Cybersecurity").

Lastly, I will investigate locations that would be classified as cybersecurity hotspots. These places have the most positions available in the country, and I will cover the ones that attracted me the most. "Washington D.C. is home to multiple government agencies that employ thousands of cybersecurity professionals and various private contracting agencies that provide similar services to companies that operate in the Defense sphere. Located directly across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., Arlington, Virginia is the home of the Pentagon, and The Department of Defense. The DoD is one of the largest employers of cybersecurity professionals in the world and heavily relies on the surrounding supply of independent government contractors. The financial capital of the world and home of the New York Stock Exchange,

finance firms headquartered in NYC employ a veritable army of cybersecurity professionals to support their assets. The Dallas Fort Worth area is a massive hub of Fortune 500 companies. There are several global organizations headquartered there in energy, transportation, healthcare, finance, and communications. Some of these organizations include Exxon Mobil, AT&T, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Tenet Healthcare, and Charles Schwab (Johnson)."

I have many of the requirements needed for these entry level positions, and I will only continue to get more qualified by obtaining certificates and further knowledge. Many of the positions listed above pique my interest and stoke my passion for the field. I would most likely target a location that has open positions and is in the eastern half of the United States. In conclusion, I will use my qualifications and this research to target a position and location for my professional cybersecurity future.

Work Cited

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