SUCCESS STORY

Creating Community Through Cybersecurity

Background

Growing up in a military family, Richard developed a deep appreciation for discipline and adaptability from a young age. At 18, he made the decision to follow in his father and step-father's footsteps and joined the army himself, embarking on a journey that would shape his future.

In the army, Richard's role focused on IT, intelligence, and communications. While he didn't have extensive experience in core cybersecurity, his time in the military allowed him to learn transferable skills and hone his strategic thinking.

Making a passion a profession

After serving in the army for several years, Richard accepted a day job in IT, gaining practical experience in the field for two large global investment banks. This experience was a significant learning curve, as it was his first real interaction in a civilian commercial environment. However, Richard embraced the challenge, adapting quickly and proving his ability to thrive in unfamiliar territory.

- Immersive Labs remains committed to disrupting traditional views about cyber-security training, including perceptions about talent.

- For the past six years, this mission was achieved through the Immersive Labs DCAs. As the next iteration of this commitment, Immersive Labs is pleased to announce Cyber Million, a program that expands the DCA offering to all individuals over 16.

- With the goal of filling one million cyber jobs over the next decade, Cyber Million helps employment partners recruit entry-level candidates who demonstrate provable cyber skills on the Immersive Labs platform.

- To learn more about joining Cyber Million as an employment partner, **click here**.

During his time in this role, he played a vital part in developing a cybersecurity training program, further fueling his passion for the cybersecurity field. Richard's journey led him to Merrill Lynch, where he continued to sharpen his skills and expand his network.

Motivated by his desire for personal growth and professional advancement, Richard decided to enroll in a cybersecurity program at The University of Chester. Richard embraced the unique experience and drew upon his vast knowledge and real-world expertise to contribute to the learning environment.

From IT to cybersecurity

While studying at Chester, Richard discovered Immersive Labs, gaining platform access through the Students' Digital Cyber Academy (DCA). This program enables individuals to prove they can meet job requirements by completing exercises on the Immersive Labs platform. Richard connected with other platform users, and together they created a Slack forum aimed at building an international community centered around the lab-based learning environment.

Richard ultimately joined the Student Ambassador Team, where he dedicated his efforts to supporting and empowering others. Richard declined compensation for his role. He explained his rationale: "For me the Immersive Labs platform was invaluable; it probably did more for me than my cybersecurity degree did."

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> **Richard**
> Immersive Labs User, UK

Connecting proven talent with opportunity

Years later, while on duty in Iraq, Richard logged into Immersive Labs and noticed a new pilot job section on the platform. His high scores and completion of lab requirements made him a strong candidate for a senior vulnerability analyst position at Liberty Global.

Intrigued by the opportunity, Richard decided to apply. Although the senior vulnerability analyst role wasn't the perfect fit, Richard left a lasting impression on the Liberty Global team. Shortly after, he received an email offering him a position as a vulnerability analyst, a testament to the impact he had made during the interview process – and he accepted.

When asked what advice he would give to others considering using the platform, he explained, "Absolutely get on it – why would you not? The Immersive Labs platform is designed to get you your first job. It gives you skills that people are looking for."

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Immersive Labs is trusted by the world's largest organizations and governments, including Citi, Pfizer, Humana, HSBC, the UK Ministry of Defence, and the UK National Health Service. We are backed by Goldman Sachs Asset Management, Ten Eleven Ventures, Summit Partners, Insight Partners, Citi Ventures, and Menlo Ventures.

For more information, please contact sales@immersivelabs.com