Tips for Taking The CISSP Exam

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Topics

- Studying for the exam

- Preparing for the exam

- Taking the exam

- Obtaining the CISSP certification

Studying for the exam

- It is just an exam…
  - *Power of Positive Thinking*
  - The exam does not define your knowledge or expertise.
- Stay with it…
  - Don't stop. Keep the momentum going.
  - Go ahead and register. Let the commitment be the driver.
- Study, but no need to over-study…
  - One or two references are plenty.
  - Give yourself no more than a month after this course.
  - Two to three domain per week. It must be continuous.
  - Go to: http://www.cccure.org to take the online tests (15 min. per day.)
- Register for the exam…
  - Go to: https://www.isc2.org/cbt/default.aspx to search for exam schedule and test center
  - Go to: http://www.pearsonvue.com/isc2/ to schedule a test

Preparing for the exam

- Set up a schedule…
  - Four weeks before the exam…
    - Form a study group.
    - Meet one hour/day, every weekdays during lunch.
    - Use MITRE Lync.
  - A week before the exam…
    - Use the slide set as "flash cards". Don't save them, use them, mark them up.
    - Do a weekend drive to the test site. (Know where to park and where to stay.)
  - Night before the exam…
    - Don't study. (You're not going to learn anymore.)
    - No distraction or stress. Be prepared.
    - Go to bed early.

Taking the exam ... (1/2)

- Get familiar with CBT
  - Download the test tutorial & practice exam from Pearson Vue (http://www.pearsonvue.com/athena/)
  - Take an online tour of a Pearson Professional Center (http://www.pearsonvue.com/ppc/)
- Arrive early…
  - One hour, if you can. (Exam starts at 0900 hour)
    - Bring your registration paperwork, government issued ID: Driver's License.
    - Bring your snacks and drink (in covered container).
  - Take your restroom break before you sign-in
- Listen and follow instructions…
  - Your proctor will lead you through the registration process and lead you to your workstation
  - Get familiar with your workstation and start when you're ready.

Taking the exam …(2/2)

- Take your time, but not too much time…
  - 1 min. per question, but no more than 2.
  - Mark the questions that you're not sure on and move on.
- Do take a break…
  - Take at least one break. Take a break after you've answered 75 to 100 questions.
  - Proctor will likely only allow one person to get up at a time.
- Review your answers…
  1. Review the questions that you don't have an answer first.
  2. Review rest of your answers.
  - Your first answer likely be the right answer.
- Ignore your surroundings…
  - You'll have a mix cohort (ISSEP, ISSMP, ISSAP, and SSCP are 3 hour exams.)

Obtaining the certification

- Notification…
  - You will get your test results right away
  - (ISC)^2 will e-mail you the confirmation on next business day or two.
  - The hyperlink in e-mail will take you to the endorsement form.
- Endorsement
  - Complete the application and form
  - Your resume/C.V. needs to illustrate 5 years of professional experience in at least two to three security domains
  - Have a CISSP to endorse you. Provide he/she…
    - Completed endorsement form
    - Your resume
    - Exam ID
- Your certificate…
  - (ISC)^2 will notify you in e-mail.
  - It will arrive 4-6 weeks in an 9x12 envelope
  - The package will contain your certificate and membership login information.