



CompTIA Security+ Certification Exam Objectives

EXAM NUMBER: SY0-601



About the Exam

Candidates are encouraged to use this document to help prepare for the CompTIA Security+ (SY0-601) certification exam. The CompTIA Security+ certification exam will verify the successful candidate has the knowledge and skills required to:

- **Assess the security posture of an enterprise environment and recommend and implement appropriate security solutions**
- **Monitor and secure hybrid environments, including cloud, mobile, and IoT**
- **Operate with an awareness of applicable laws and policies, including principles of governance, risk, and compliance**
- **Identify, analyze, and respond to security events and incidents**

This is equivalent to two years of hands-on experience working in a security/systems administrator job role.

These content examples are meant to clarify the test objectives and should not be construed as a comprehensive listing of all the content of this examination.

EXAM DEVELOPMENT

CompTIA exams result from subject matter expert workshops and industry-wide survey results regarding the skills and knowledge required of an IT professional.

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PLEASE NOTE

The lists of examples provided in bulleted format are not exhaustive lists. Other examples of technologies, processes, or tasks pertaining to each objective may also be included on the exam although not listed or covered in this objectives document. CompTIA is constantly reviewing the content of our exams and updating test questions to be sure our exams are current, and the security of the questions is protected. When necessary, we will publish updated exams based on testing exam objectives. Please know that all related exam preparation materials will still be valid.

TEST DETAILS

Required exam	SY0-601
Number of questions	Maximum of 90
Types of questions	Multiple choice and performance-based
Length of test	90 minutes
Recommended experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least 2 years of work experience in IT systems administration with a focus on security• Hands-on technical information security experience• Broad knowledge of security concepts
Passing score	750 (on a scale of 100–900)

EXAM OBJECTIVES (DOMAINS)

The table below lists the domains measured by this examination and the extent to which they are represented:

DOMAIN	PERCENTAGE OF EXAMINATION
1.0 Attacks, Threats, and Vulnerabilities	24%
2.0 Architecture and Design	21%
3.0 Implementation	25%
4.0 Operations and Incident Response	16%
5.0 Governance, Risk, and Compliance	14%
Total	100%



1.0 Threats, Attacks and Vulnerabilities

1.1 Compare and contrast different types of social engineering techniques.

- Phishing
- Smishing
- Vishing
- Spam
- Spam over Internet messaging (SPIM)
- Spear phishing
- Dumpster diving
- Shoulder surfing
- Pharming
- Tailgating
- Eliciting information
- Whaling
- Prepending
- Identity fraud
- Invoice scams
- Credential harvesting
- Reconnaissance
- Hoax
- Impersonation
- Watering hole attack
- Typo squatting
- Influence campaigns
 - Hybrid warfare
 - Social media
- Principles (reasons for effectiveness)
 - Authority
 - Intimidation
 - Consensus
 - Scarcity
 - Familiarity
 - Trust
 - Urgency

1.2 Given a scenario, analyze potential indicators to determine the type of attack.

- Malware
 - Ransomware
 - Trojans
 - Worms
 - Potentially unwanted programs (PUPs)
 - Fileless virus
 - Command and control
 - Bots
 - Crypto malware
 - Logic bombs
 - Spyware
 - Keyloggers
 - Remote access Trojan (RAT)
 - Rootkit
 - Backdoor
- Password attacks
 - Spraying
 - Dictionary
 - Brute force
 - Offline
 - Online
 - Rainbow tables
 - Plaintext/unencrypted
- Physical attacks
 - Malicious universal serial bus (USB) cable
 - Malicious flash drive
 - Card cloning
 - Skimming
- Adversarial artificial intelligence (AI)
 - Tainted training data for machine learning (ML)
 - Security of machine learning algorithms
- Supply-chain attacks
- Cloud-based vs. on-premises attacks
- Cryptographic attacks
 - Birthday
 - Collision
 - Downgrade



1.3 Given a scenario, analyze potential indicators associated with application attacks.

- **Privilege escalation**
- **Cross-site scripting**
- **Injections**
 - Structured query language (SQL)
 - Dynamic link library (DLL)
 - Lightweight directory access protocol (LDAP)
 - Extensible markup language (XML)
- **Pointer/object dereference**
- **Directory traversal**
- **Buffer overflows**
- **Race conditions**
 - Time of check/time of use
- **Error handling**
- **Improper input handling**
- **Replay attack**
 - Session replays
- **Integer overflow**
- **Request forgeries**
 - Server-side
 - Client-side
 - Cross-site
- **Application programming interface (API) attacks**
- **Resource exhaustion**
- **Memory leak**
- **Secure sockets layer (SSL) stripping**
- **Driver manipulation**
 - Shimming
 - Refactoring
- **Pass the hash**

1.4 Given a scenario, analyze potential indicators associated with network attacks.

- **Wireless**
 - Evil twin
 - Rogue access point
 - Bluesnarfing
 - Bluejacking
 - Disassociation
 - Jamming
 - Radio frequency identifier (RFID)
 - Near field communication (NFC)
 - Initialization vector (IV)
- **Man in the middle**
- **Man in the browser**
- **Layer 2 attacks**
 - Address resolution protocol (ARP) poisoning
 - Media access control (MAC) flooding
 - MAC cloning
- **Domain name system (DNS)**
 - Domain hijacking
 - DNS poisoning
 - Universal resource locator (URL) redirection
- Domain reputation
- **Distributed denial of service (DDoS)**
 - Network
 - Application
 - Operational technology (OT)
- **Malicious code or script execution**
 - PowerShell
 - Python
 - Bash
 - Macros
 - Virtual Basic for Applications (VBA)

**1.5** Explain different threat actors, vectors, and intelligence sources.**• Actors and threats**

- Advanced persistent threat (APT)
- Insider threats
- State actors
- Hacktivists
- Script kiddies
- Criminal syndicates
- Hackers
 - White hat
 - Black hat
 - Gray hat
- Shadow IT
- Competitors

• Attributes of actors

- Internal/external
- Level of sophistication/capability
- Resources/funding
- Intent/motivation

• Vectors

- Direct access
- Wireless
- Email
- Supply chain
- Social media
- Removable media
- Cloud

• Threat intelligence sources

- Open source intelligence (OSINT)
- Closed/proprietary
- Vulnerability databases
- Public/private information sharing centers
- Dark web
- Indicators of compromise

- Automated indicator sharing (AIS)
 - Structured threat information exchange (STIX)/Trusted automated exchange of indicator information (TAXII)
- Predictive analysis
- Threat maps
- File/code repositories

• Research sources

- Vendor websites
- Vulnerability feeds
- Conferences
- Academic journals
- Request for comments (RFC)
- Local industry groups
- Social media
- Threat feeds
- Adversary tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP)

1.6 Explain the security concerns associated with various types of vulnerabilities.**• Cloud-based vs. on-premises vulnerabilities****• Zero-day****• Weak configurations**

- Open permissions
- Unsecured root accounts
- Errors
- Weak encryption
- Unsecure protocols
- Default settings
- Open ports and services

• Third-party risks

- Vendor management
 - System integration
 - Lack of vendor support
- Supply chain
- Outsourced code development
- Data storage

• Improper or weak patch management

- Firmware
- Operating system (OS)
- Applications

• Legacy platforms**• Impacts**

- Data loss
- Data breaches
- Data exfiltration
- Identity theft
- Financial
- Reputation
- Availability loss



1.7 Summarize the techniques used in security assessments.

- **Threat hunting**
 - Intelligence fusion
 - Threat feeds
 - Advisories and bulletins
 - Maneuver
 - **Vulnerability scans**
 - False positives
 - False negatives
 - Log reviews
 - Credentialed vs. non-credentialed
 - Intrusive vs. non-intrusive
 - Application
 - Web application
 - Network
 - Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE)/Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS)
 - Configuration review
 - **Syslog/Security information and event management (SIEM)**
 - Review reports
 - Packet capture
 - Data inputs
 - User behavior analysis
 - Sentiment analysis
 - Security monitoring
 - Log aggregation
 - Log collectors
 - **Security orchestration, automation, response (SOAR)**
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1.8 Explain the techniques used in penetration testing.

- **Penetration testing**
 - White box
 - Black box
 - Gray box
 - Rules of engagement
 - Lateral movement
 - Privilege escalation
 - Persistence
 - Cleanup
 - Bug bounty
 - Pivoting
- **Passive and active reconnaissance**
 - Drones/unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV)
 - War flying
 - War driving
 - Footprinting
 - OSINT
- **Exercise types**
 - Red team
 - Blue team
 - White team
 - Purple team



2.0 Architecture and Design

2.1 Explain the importance of security concepts in an enterprise environment.

- **Configuration management**
 - Diagrams
 - Baseline configuration
 - Standard naming conventions
 - Internet protocol (IP) schema
- **Data sovereignty**
- **Data protection**
 - Data loss prevention (DLP)
 - Masking
 - Encryption
 - At rest
 - In transit/motion
 - In processing
 - Tokenization
 - Rights management
- **Hardware security module (HSM)**
- **Geographical considerations**
- **Cloud access security broker (CASB)**
- **Response and recovery controls**
- **Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)/Transport Layer Security (TLS) inspection**
- **Hashing**
- **API considerations**
- **Site resiliency**
 - Hot site
 - Cold site
 - Warm site
- **Deception and disruption**
 - Honeypots
 - Honeyfiles
 - Honeynets
 - Fake telemetry
 - DNS sinkhole

2.2 Summarize virtualization and cloud computing concepts.

- **Cloud models**
 - Infrastructure as a service (IaaS)
 - Platform as a service (PaaS)
 - Software as a service (SaaS)
 - Anything as a service (XaaS)
 - Public
 - Community
 - Private
 - Hybrid
- **Cloud service providers**
- **Managed service provider (MSP)/ Managed security service provider (MSSP)**
- **On-premises vs. off-premises**
- **Fog computing**
- **Edge computing**
- **Thin client**
- **Containers**
- **Micro-services/API**
- **Infrastructure as code**
 - Software-defined networking (SDN)
 - Software-defined visibility (SDV)
- **Serverless architecture**
- **Services integration**
- **Resource policies**
- **Transit gateway**
- **Virtualization**
 - Virtual machine (VM) sprawl avoidance
 - VM escape protection

2.3 Summarize secure application development, deployment, and automation concepts.

- **Environment**
 - Development
 - Test
 - Staging
 - Production
 - Quality assurance (QA)
- **Provisioning and deprovisioning**
- **Integrity measurement**
- **Secure coding techniques**
 - Normalization
 - Stored procedures
 - Obfuscation/camouflage
- Code reuse/dead code
- Server-side vs. client-side execution and validation
- Memory management
- Use of third-party libraries and software development kits (SDKs)
- Data exposure
- **Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP)**
- **Software diversity**
 - Compiler
 - Binary
- **Automation/scripting**
 - Automated courses of action
 - Continuous monitoring
 - Continuous validation
 - Continuous integration
 - Continuous delivery
 - Continuous deployment
- **Elasticity**
- **Scalability**
- **Version control**

2.4 Summarize authentication and authorization design concepts.

- **Authentication methods**
 - Directory services
 - Federation
 - Attestation
 - Technologies
 - Time-based one-time password (TOTP)
 - HMAC-based one-time password (HOTP)
 - Short message service (SMS)
 - Token key
 - Static codes
 - Authentication applications
 - Push notifications
 - Phone call
 - Smart card authentication
- **Biometrics**
 - Fingerprint
 - Retina
 - Iris
 - Facial
 - Voice
 - Vein
 - Gait analysis
 - Efficacy rates
 - False acceptance
 - False rejection
 - Crossover error rate
- **Multifactor authentication (MFA) factors and attributes**
 - Factors
 - Something you know
 - Something you have
 - Something you are
 - Attributes
 - Somewhere you are
 - Something you can do
 - Something you exhibit
 - Someone you know
- **Authentication, authorization, and accounting (AAA)**
- **Cloud vs. on-premises requirements**

2.5 Given a scenario, implement cybersecurity resilience.

- **Redundancy**
 - Geographic dispersal
 - Disk
 - Redundant array of inexpensive disks (RAID) levels
 - Multipath
 - Network
 - Load balancers
 - Network interface card (NIC) teaming
 - Power
 - Uninterruptible power supply (UPS)
 - Generator
 - Dual supply
 - Managed power distribution units (PDUs)
- **Replication**
 - Storage area network (SAN)
 - VM
- **On-premises vs. cloud**
- **Backup types**
 - Full
 - Incremental
 - Snapshot
 - Differential
 - Tape
 - Disk
 - Copy
 - Network attached storage (NAS)
 - SAN
 - Cloud
 - Image
 - Online vs. offline
- Offsite storage
 - Distance considerations
- **Non-persistence**
 - Revert to known state
 - Last known good configuration
 - Live boot media
- **High availability**
 - Scalability
- **Restoration order**
- **Diversity**
 - Technologies
 - Vendors
 - Crypto
 - Controls

2.6 Explain the security implications of embedded and specialized systems.

- **Embedded systems**
 - Raspberry Pi
 - Field programmable gate array (FPGA)
 - Arduino
- **System control and data acquisition (SCADA)/industrial control system (ICS)**
 - Facilities
 - Industrial
 - Manufacturing
 - Energy
 - Logistics
- **Internet of Things (IoT)**
 - Sensors
 - Smart devices
 - Wearables
 - Facility automation
 - Weak defaults
- **Specialized**
 - Medical systems
 - Vehicles
 - Aircraft
 - Smart meters
- **Voice over IP (VoIP)**
- **Heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC)**
- **Drones/AVs**
- **Multifunction printer (MFP)**
- **Real-time operating system (RTOS)**
- **Surveillance systems**
- **System on chip (SoC)**
- **Communication considerations**
 - 5G
 - Narrow-band
 - Baseband radio
- Subscriber identity module (SIM) cards
- Zigbee
- **Constraints**
 - Power
 - Compute
 - Network
 - Crypto
 - Inability to patch
 - Authentication
 - Range
 - Cost
 - Implied trust

2.7 Explain the importance of physical security controls.

- Bollards/barricades
- Mantraps
- Badges
- Alarms
- Signage
- Cameras
 - Motion recognition
 - Object detection
- Closed-circuit television (CCTV)
- Industrial camouflage
- Personnel
 - Guards
 - Robot sentries
 - Reception
 - Two-person integrity/control
- Locks
 - Biometrics
- Electronic
- Physical
- Cable locks
- USB data blocker
- Lighting
- Fencing
- Fire suppression
- Sensors
 - Motion detection
 - Noise detection
 - Proximity reader
 - Moisture detection
 - Cards
 - Temperature
- Drones/UAV
- Visitor logs
- Faraday cages
- Air gap
- Demilitarized zone (DMZ)
- Protected cable distribution
- Secure areas
 - Air gap
 - Vault
 - Safe
 - Hot aisle
 - Cold aisle
- Secure data destruction
 - Burning
 - Shredding
 - Pulping
 - Pulverizing
 - Degaussing
 - Third-party solutions

2.8 Summarize the basics of cryptographic concepts.

- Digital signatures
- Key length
- Key stretching
- Salting
- Hashing
- Key exchange
- Elliptical curve cryptography
- Perfect forward secrecy
- Quantum
 - Communications
 - Computing
- Post-quantum
- Ephemeral
- Modes of operation
 - Authenticated
 - Unauthenticated
 - Counter
- Blockchain
 - Public ledgers
- Cipher suites
 - Stream
 - Block
- Symmetric vs. asymmetric
- Lightweight cryptography
- Steganography
 - Audio
 - Video
 - Image
- Homomorphic encryption
- Common use cases
 - Low power devices
 - Low latency
 - High resiliency
 - Supporting confidentiality
- Supporting integrity
- Supporting obfuscation
- Supporting authentication
- Supporting non-repudiation
- Resource vs. security constraints
- Limitations
 - Speed
 - Size
 - Weak keys
 - Time
 - Longevity
 - Predictability
 - Reuse
 - Entropy
 - Computational overheads
 - Resource vs. security constraints



3.0 Implementation

3.1 Given a scenario, implement secure protocols.

• Protocols

- Domain Name System Security Extension (DNSSEC)
- SSH
- Secure/multipurpose Internet mail exchanger (S/MIME)
- Secure real-time protocol (SRTP)
- LDAPS
- File transfer protocol, secure (FTPS)
- Secured file transfer protocol (SFTP)
- Simple Network Management Protocol, version 3 (SNMPv3)

- Hypertext transfer protocol over SSL/TLS (HTTPS)
- IPSec
 - Authentication header (AH)/ Encapsulated security payload (ESP)
 - Tunnel/transport
- Secure post office protocol (POP)/ Internet message access protocol (IMAP)

• Use cases

- Voice and video
- Time synchronization

- Email and web
- File transfer
- Directory services
- Remote access
- Domain name resolution
- Routing and switching
- Network address allocation
- Subscription services

3.2 Given a scenario, implement host or application security solutions.

• Endpoint protection

- Antivirus
- Anti-malware
- Endpoint detection and response (EDR)
- DLP
- Next-generation firewall
- Host intrusion prevention system (HIPS)
- Host intrusion detection system (HIDS)
- Host-based firewall

• Boot integrity

- Boot security/Unified Extensible Firmware Interface (UEFI)
- Measured boot

- Boot attestation

• Database

- Tokenization
- Salting
- Hashing

• Application security

- Input validations
- Secure cookies
- Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) headers
- Code signing
- Whitelisting
- Blacklisting
- Secure coding practices
- Static code analysis
 - Manual code review

- Dynamic code analysis
- Fuzzing

• Hardening

- Open ports and services
- Registry
- Disk encryption
- OS
 - Patch management
 - Third-party updates
 - Auto-update

• Self-encrypting drive (SED)/ full disk encryption (FDE)

- Opal

• Hardware root of trust

- Trusted Platform Module (TPM)
- Sandboxing



3.3 Given a scenario, implement secure network designs.

- **Load balancing**
 - Active/active
 - Active/passive
 - Scheduling
 - Virtual IP
 - Persistence
- **Network segmentation**
 - Virtual local area network (VLAN)
 - DMZ
 - East-west traffic
 - Extranet
 - Intranet
 - Zero trust
- **Virtual private network (VPN)**
 - Always on
 - Split tunnel vs. full tunnel
 - Remote access vs. site-to-site
 - IPSec
 - SSL/TLS
 - HTML5
 - Layer 2 tunneling protocol (L2TP)
- **DNS**
- **Network access control (NAC)**
 - Agent and agentless
- **Out-of-band management**
- **Port security**
 - Broadcast storm prevention
 - Bridge Protocol Data Unit (BPDU) guard
 - Loop prevention
 - Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) snooping
 - Media access control (MAC) filtering
- **Network appliances**
 - Jump servers
 - Proxy servers
 - Forward
 - Reverse
 - Network-based intrusion detection system (NIDS)/network-based intrusion prevention system (NIPS)
 - Signature based
 - Heuristic/behavior
 - Anomaly
 - Inline vs. passive
 - HSM
 - Sensors
- Collectors
- Aggregators
- Firewalls
 - Web application firewall (WAF)
 - Next-generation firewall
 - Stateful
 - Stateless
 - Unified threat management (UTM)
 - Network address translation (NAT) gateway
 - Content/URL filter
 - Open-source vs. proprietary
 - Hardware vs. software
 - Appliance vs. host-based vs. virtual
- **Access control list (ACL)**
- **Route security**
- **Quality of service (QoS)**
- **Implications of IPv6**
- **Port spanning/port mirroring**
 - Port taps
- **Monitoring services**
- **File integrity monitors**

3.4 Given a scenario, install and configure wireless security settings.

- **Cryptographic protocols**
 - WiFi protected access II (WPA2)
 - WiFi protected access III (WPA3)
 - Counter-mode/CBC-MAC protocol (CCMP)
 - Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE)
- **Authentication protocols**
 - Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP)
 - Protected Extensible Application Protocol (PEAP)
 - EAP-FAST
 - EAP-TLS
 - EAP-TTLS
- IEEE 802.1X
- Remote Authentication Dial-in User Server (RADIUS) Federation
- **Methods**
 - Pre-shared key (PSK) vs. Enterprise vs. Open
 - WiFi Protected Setup (WPS)
 - Captive portals
- **Installation considerations**
 - Site surveys
 - Heat maps
 - WiFi analyzers
 - Channel overlays
 - Wireless access point (WAP) placement
- Controller and access point security



3.5 Given a scenario, implement secure mobile solutions.

- **Connection methods and receivers**
 - Cellular
 - WiFi
 - Bluetooth
 - NFC
 - Infrared
 - USB
 - Point to point
 - Point to multipoint
 - Global Positioning System (GPS)
 - RFID
- **Mobile device management (MDM)**
 - Application management
 - Content management
 - Remote wipe
 - Geofencing
 - Geolocation
 - Screen locks
 - Push notifications
 - Passwords and pins
- Biometrics
- Context-aware authentication
- Containerization
- Storage segmentation
- Full device encryption
- **Mobile devices**
 - MicroSD HSM
 - MDM/Unified endpoint management (UEM)
 - Mobile application management (MAM)
 - SEAndroid
- **Enforcement and monitoring of:**
 - Third-party app stores
 - Rooting/jailbreaking
 - Sideloaded
 - Custom firmware
 - Carrier unlocking
 - Firmware over-the-air (OTA) updates
 - Camera use
- SMS/multimedia message service (MMS)/Rich communication services (RCS)
- External media
- USB on the go (OTG)
- Recording microphone
- GPS tagging
- WiFi direct/ad hoc
- Tethering
- Hotspot
- Payment methods
- **Deployment models**
 - Bring your own device (BYOD)
 - Corporate-owned personally enabled (COPE)
 - Choose your own device (CYOD)
 - Corporate-owned
 - Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)

3.6 Given a scenario, apply cybersecurity solutions to the cloud.

- **Cloud security controls**
 - High availability across zones
 - Resource policies
 - Secrets management
 - Integration and auditing
 - Storage
 - Permissions
 - Encryption
 - Replication
 - High availability
 - Network
 - Virtual networks
 - Public and private subnets
 - Segmentation
 - API inspection and integration
 - Compute
 - Security groups
 - Dynamic resource allocation
 - Instance awareness
 - Virtual private cloud (VPC) endpoint
 - Container security
- **Solutions**
 - CASB
 - Application security
 - Next-generation secure web gateway (SWG)
 - Firewall considerations in a cloud environment
 - Cost
 - Need for segmentation
 - Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) layers
- **Cloud native controls vs. third-party solutions**



3.7 Given a scenario, implement identity and account management controls.

- **Identity**
 - Identity provider (IdP)
 - Attributes
 - Certificates
 - Tokens
 - SSH keys
 - Smart cards
- **Account types**
 - User account
 - Shared and generic accounts/credentials
- Guest accounts
- Service accounts
- **Account policies**
 - Password complexity
 - Password history
 - Password reuse
 - Time of day
 - Network location
 - Geofencing
 - Geotagging
 - Geolocation
- Time-based logins
- Access policies
- Account permissions
- Account audits
- Impossible travel time/risky login
- Lockout
- Disablement

3.8 Given a scenario, implement authentication and authorization solutions.

- **Authentication management**
 - Password keys
 - Password vaults
 - TPM
 - HSM
 - Knowledge-based authentication
- **Authentication**
 - EAP
 - Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol (CHAP)
 - Password Authentication Protocol (PAP)
- 802.1X
- RADIUS
- Single sign-on (SSO)
- Security Assertions Markup Language (SAML)
- Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus (TACACS+)
- OAuth
- OpenID
- Kerberos
- **Access control schemes**
 - Attribute-based access control (ABAC)
- Role-based access control
- Rule-based access control
- MAC
- Discretionary access control (DAC)
- Conditional access
- Privilege access management
- Filesystem permissions

3.9 Given a scenario, implement public key infrastructure.

- **Public key infrastructure (PKI)**
 - Key management
 - Certificate authority (CA)
 - Intermediate CA
 - Registration authority (RA)
 - Certificate revocation list (CRL)
 - Certificate attributes
 - Online Certificate Status Protocol (OCSP)
 - Certificate signing request (CSR)
 - CN
 - SAN
 - Expiration
- **Types of certificates**
 - Wildcard
 - SAN
 - Code signing
 - Self-signed
 - Machine/computer
 - Email
 - User
 - Root
 - Domain validation
 - Extended validation
- **Certificate formats**
 - Distinguished encoding rules (DER)
- Privacy enhanced mail (PEM)
- Personal information exchange (PFX)
- .cer
- P12
- P7B
- **Concepts**
 - Online vs. offline CA
 - Stapling
 - Pinning
 - Trust model
 - Key escrow
 - Certificate chaining



4.0 Operations and Incident Response

4.1 Given a scenario, use the appropriate tool to assess organizational security.

- **Network reconnaissance and discovery**

- tracert/traceroute
- nslookup/dig
- ipconfig/ifconfig
- nmap
- ping/pathping
- hping
- netstat
- netcat
- IP scanners
- arp
- route
- curl
- the harvester
- sn1per

- scanless

- dnstenum

- Nessus

- Cuckoo

- **File manipulation**

- head

- tail

- cat

- grep

- chmod

- logger

- **Shell and script environments**

- SSH

- PowerShell

- Python

- OpenSSL

- **Packet capture and replay**

- Tcpreplay

- Tcpdump

- Wireshark

- **Forensics**

- dd

- Memdump

- WinHex

- FTK imager

- Autopsy

- **Exploitation frameworks**

- **Password crackers**

- **Data sanitization**

4.2 Summarize the importance of policies, processes, and procedures for incident response.

- **Incident response plans**

- **Incident response process**

- Preparation
- Identification
- Containment
- Eradication
- Recovery
- Lessons learned

- **Exercises**

- Tabletop

- Walkthroughs

- Simulations

- **Attack frameworks**

- MITRE ATT&CK

- The Diamond Model of Intrusion Analysis

- Cyber Kill Chain

- **Stakeholder management**

- **Communication plan**

- **Disaster recovery plan**

- **Business continuity plan**

- **Continuity of operation planning (COOP)**

- **Incident response team**

- **Retention policies**



4.3 Given an incident, utilize appropriate data sources to support an investigation.

- **Vulnerability scan output**
- **SIEM dashboards**
 - Sensor
 - Sensitivity
 - Trends
 - Alerts
 - Correlation
- **Log files**
 - Network
 - System
 - Application
- Security
- Web
- DNS
- Authentication
- Dump files
- VoIP and call managers
- Session Initiation Protocol (SIP) traffic
- **syslog/rsyslog/syslog-ng**
- **journalctl**
- **nxlog**
- **Retention**
- **Bandwidth monitors**
- **Metadata**
 - Email
 - Mobile
 - Web
 - File
- **Netflow/sflow**
 - Echo
 - IPfix
- **Protocol analyzer output**

4.4 Given an incident, apply mitigation techniques or controls to secure an environment.

- **Reconfigure endpoint security solutions**
 - Application whitelisting
 - Application blacklisting
 - Quarantine
- **Configuration changes**
 - Firewall rules
 - MDM
 - DLP
 - Content filter/URL filter
 - Update or revoke certificates
- **Isolation**
- **Containment**
- **Segmentation**
- **Secure Orchestration, Automation, and Response (SOAR)**
 - Runbooks
 - Playbooks

4.5 Explain the key aspects of digital forensics.

- **Documentation/evidence**
 - Legal hold
 - Video
 - Admissibility
 - Chain of custody
 - Timelines of sequence of events
 - Time stamps
 - Time offset
 - Tags
 - Reports
 - Event logs
 - Interviews
- **Acquisition**
 - Order of volatility
 - Disk
 - Random-access memory (RAM)
 - Swap/pagefile
 - OS
 - Device
 - Firmware
 - Snapshot
 - Cache
 - Network
 - Artifacts
- **On-premises vs. cloud**
 - Right to audit clauses
 - Regulatory/jurisdiction
 - Data breach notification laws
- **Integrity**
 - Hashing
 - Checksums
 - Provenance
- **Preservation**
- **E-discovery**
- **Data recovery**
- **Non-repudiation**
- **Strategic intelligence/counterintelligence**



5.0 Governance, Risk, and Compliance

5.1 Compare and contrast various types of controls.

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Managerial - Operational - Technical | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Control type <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventative - Detective - Corrective | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deterrent - Compensating - Physical |
|---|--|---|

5.2 Explain the importance of applicable regulations, standards, or frameworks that impact organizational security posture.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulations, standards, and legislation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - National, territory, or state laws - Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) • Key frameworks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Center for Internet Security (CIS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) RMF/CSF - International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 27001/27002/27701/31000 - SSAE SOC 2 Type II/III - Cloud security alliance - Cloud control matrix | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reference architecture • Benchmarks /secure configuration guides <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Platform/vendor-specific guides - Web server - OS - Application server - Network infrastructure devices |
|--|--|---|

5.3 Explain the importance of policies to organizational security.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acceptable use policy - Job rotation - Mandatory vacation - Separation of duties - Least privilege - Clean desk space - Background checks - Non-disclosure agreement (NDA) - Social media analysis - Onboarding - Offboarding - User training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gamification - Capture the flag - Phishing campaigns - Phishing simulations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Computer-based training (CBT) - Role-based training • Diversity of training techniques • Third-party risk management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vendors - Supply chain - Business partners - Service level agreement (SLA) - Memorandum of understanding (MOU) - Measurement systems analysis (MSA) - Business partnership agreement (BPA) - End of life (EOL) - End of service (EOS) - NDA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Classification - Governance - Retention • Credential policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel - Third party - Devices - Service accounts - Administrator/root accounts • Organizational policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Change management - Change control - Asset management |
|--|---|---|



5.4 Summarize risk management processes and concepts.

- **Risk types**
 - External
 - Internal
 - Legacy systems
 - Multiparty
 - IP theft
 - Software compliance/licensing
- **Risk management strategies**
 - Acceptance
 - Avoidance
 - Transference
 - Cybersecurity insurance
 - Mitigation
- **Risk analysis**
 - Risk register
 - Risk matrix/heat map
 - Risk control assessment
- Risk control self-assessment
- Risk awareness
- Inherent risk
- Residual risk
- Control risk
- Risk appetite
- Regulations that affect risk posture
- Risk assessment types
 - Qualitative
 - Quantitative
- Likelihood of occurrence
- Impact
- Asset value
- Single loss expectancy (SLE)
- Annualized loss expectancy (ALE)
- Annualized rate of occurrence (ARO)
- **Disasters**
 - Environmental
 - Man-made
 - Internal vs. external
- **Business impact analysis**
 - Recovery time objective (RTO)
 - Recovery point objective (RPO)
 - Mean time to repair (MTTR)
 - Mean time between failures (MTBF)
 - Functional recovery plans
 - Single point of failure
 - Disaster recovery plan (DRP)
 - Mission essential functions
 - Identification of critical systems
 - Site risk assessment

5.5 Explain privacy and sensitive data concepts in relation to security.

- **Organizational consequences of privacy breaches**
 - Reputation damage
 - Identity theft
 - Fines
 - IP theft
- **Notifications of breaches**
 - Escalation
 - Public notifications and disclosures
- **Data types**
 - Classifications
 - Public
 - Private
 - Sensitive
 - Confidential
 - Critical
 - Proprietary
- Personally identifiable information (PII)
- Health information
- Financial information
- Government data
- Customer data
- **Privacy enhancing technologies**
 - Data minimization
 - Data masking
 - Tokenization
 - Anonymization
 - Pseudo-anonymization
- **Roles and responsibilities**
 - Data owners
 - Data controller
 - Data processor
 - Data custodian/steward
 - Data privacy officer (DPO)
- **Information life cycle**
- **Impact assessment**
- **Terms of agreement**
- **Privacy notice**

Security+ (SY0-601) Acronym List

The following is a list of acronyms that appear on the CompTIA Security+ exam. Candidates are encouraged to review the complete list and attain a working knowledge of all listed acronyms as part of a comprehensive exam preparation program.

ACRONYM	DEFINITION		
3DES	Triple Digital Encryption Standard	CBC	Cipher Block Chaining
AAA	Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting	CBT	Computer-based Training
ABAC	Attribute-based Access Control	CCMP	Counter-Mode/CBC-Mac Protocol
ACL	Access Control List	CCTV	Closed-Circuit Television
AES	Advanced Encryption Standard	CERT	Computer Emergency Response Team
AES256	Advanced Encryption Standards 256bit	CFB	Cipher Feedback
AH	Authentication Header	CHAP	Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol
AI	Artificial Intelligence	CIO	Chief Information Officer
AIS	Automated Indicator Sharing	CIRT	Computer Incident Response Team
ALE	Annualized Loss Expectancy	CIS	Center for Internet Security
AP	Access Point	CMS	Content Management System
API	Application Programming Interface	COOP	Continuity of Operation Planning
APT	Advanced Persistent Threat	COPE	Corporate Owned Personal Enabled
ARO	Annualized Rate of Occurrence	CP	Contingency Planning
ARP	Address Resolution Protocol	CRC	Cyclical Redundancy Check
ASLR	Address Space Layout Randomization	CRL	Certificate Revocation List
ASP	Active Server Page	CSO	Chief Security Officer
ATT&CK	Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge	CSP	Cloud Service Provider
AUP	Acceptable Use Policy	CSR	Certificate Signing Request
AV	Antivirus	CSRF	Cross-Site Request Forgery
BASH	Bourne Again Shell	CSU	Channel Service Unit
BCP	Business Continuity Planning	CTM	Counter-Mode
BGP	Border Gateway Protocol	CTO	Chief Technology Officer
BIA	Business Impact Analysis	CVE	Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System	CVSS	Common Vulnerability Scoring System
BPA	Business Partnership Agreement	CYOD	Choose Your Own Device
BPDU	Bridge Protocol Data Unit	DAC	Discretionary Access Control
BYOD	Bring Your Own Device	DBA	Database Administrator
CA	Certificate Authority	DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service
CAC	Common Access Card	DEP	Data Execution Prevention
CAPTCHA	Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart	DER	Distinguished Encoding Rules
CAR	Corrective Action Report	DES	Digital Encryption Standard
CASB	Cloud Access Security Broker	DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
		DHE	Diffie-Hellman Ephemeral
		DKIM	Domain Keys Identified Mail
		DLL	Dynamic Link Library

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	ACRONYM	DEFINITION
DLP	Data Loss Prevention	HVAC	Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning
DMARC	Domain Message Authentication Reporting and Conformance	IaaS	Infrastructure as a Service
DMZ	Demilitarized Zone	ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol
DNAT	Destination Network Address Transaction	ICS	Industrial Control Systems
DNS	Domain Name Service (Server)	IDEA	International Data Encryption Algorithm
DNSSEC	Domain Name System Security Extensions	IDF	Intermediate Distribution Frame
DoS	Denial of Service	IdP	Identity Provider
DPO	Data Privacy Officer	IDS	Intrusion Detection System
DRP	Disaster Recovery Plan	IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
DSA	Digital Signature Algorithm	IKE	Internet Key Exchange
DSL	Digital Subscriber Line	IM	Instant Messaging
EAP	Extensible Authentication Protocol	IMAP4	Internet Message Access Protocol v4
ECB	Electronic Code Book	IoC	Indicators of Compromise
ECC	Elliptic Curve Cryptography	IoT	Internet of Things
ECDHE	Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman Ephemeral	IP	Internet Protocol
ECDSA	Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm	IPSec	Internet Protocol Security
EDR	Endpoint Detection and Response	IR	Incident Response
EFS	Encrypted File System	IRC	Internet Relay Chat
EOL	End of Life	IRP	Incident Response Plan
EOS	End of Service	ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ERP	Enterprise Resource Planning	ISP	Internet Service Provider
ESN	Electronic Serial Number	ISSO	Information Systems Security Officer
ESP	Encapsulated Security Payload	ITCP	IT Contingency Plan
FACL	File System Access Control List	IV	Initialization Vector
FDE	Full Disk Encryption	KDC	Key Distribution Center
FPGA	Field Programmable Gate Array	KEK	Key Encryption Key
FRR	False Rejection Rate	L2TP	Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol
FTP	File Transfer Protocol	LAN	Local Area Network
FTPS	Secured File Transfer Protocol	LDAP	Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
GCM	Galois Counter Mode	LEAP	Lightweight Extensible Authentication Protocol
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation	MaaS	Monitoring as a Service
GPG	Gnu Privacy Guard	MAC	Mandatory Access Control
GPO	Group Policy Object	MAC	Media Access Control
GPS	Global Positioning System	MAC	Message Authentication Code
GPU	Graphics Processing Unit	MAM	Mobile Application Management
GRE	Generic Routing Encapsulation	MAN	Metropolitan Area Network
HA	High Availability	MBR	Master Boot Record
HDD	Hard Disk Drive	MD5	Message Digest 5
HIDS	Host-Based Intrusion Detection System	MDF	Main Distribution Frame
HIPS	Host-Based Intrusion Prevention System	MDM	Mobile Device Management
HMAC	Hashed Message Authentication Code	MFA	Multifactor Authentication
HOTP	HMAC based One Time Password	MFD	Multi-Function Device
HSM	Hardware Security Module	MFP	Multi-Function Printer
HTML	HyperText Markup Language	MITM	Man in the Middle
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol	ML	Machine Learning
HTTPS	Hypertext Transfer Protocol over SSL/TLS	MMS	Multimedia Message Service
		MOA	Memorandum of Agreement

ACRONYM	DEFINITION	ACRONYM	DEFINITION
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	PCI DSS	Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard
MPLS	Multi-Protocol Label Switching	PDU	Power Distribution Unit
MSA	Measurement Systems Analysis	PEAP	Protected Extensible Authentication Protocol
MSCHAP	Microsoft Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol	PED	Personal Electronic Device
MSP	Managed Service Provider	PEM	Privacy Enhanced Mail
MSSP	Managed Security Service Provider	PFS	Perfect Forward Secrecy
MTBF	Mean Time Between Failures	PFX	Personal Information Exchange
MTTF	Mean Time to Failure	PGP	Pretty Good Privacy
MTTR	Mean Time to Recover	PHI	Personal Health Information
MTU	Maximum Transmission Unit	PII	Personally Identifiable Information
NAC	Network Access Control	PIV	Personal Identity Verification
NAS	Network Attached Storage	PKCS	Public Key Cryptography Standards
NAT	Network Address Translation	PKI	Public Key Infrastructure
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreement	POP	Post Office Protocol
NFC	Near Field Communication	POTS	Plain Old Telephone Service
NFV	Network Functions Virtualization	PPP	Point-to-Point Protocol
NIC	Network Interface Card	PPTP	Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol
NIDS	Network Based Intrusion Detection System	PSK	Pre-Shared Key
NIPS	Network Based Intrusion Prevention System	PTZ	Pan-Tilt-Zoom
NIST	National Institute of Standards & Technology	QA	Quality Assurance
NTFS	New Technology File System	QoS	Quality of Service
NTLM	New Technology LAN Manager	PUP	Potentially Unwanted Program
NTP	Network Time Protocol	RA	Recovery Agent
OAuth	Open Authorization	RA	Registration Authority
OCSP	Online Certificate Status Protocol	RACE	Research and Development in Advanced Communications Technologies in Europe
OID	Object Identifier	RAD	Rapid Application Development
OS	Operating System	RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial-in User Server
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection	RAID	Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks
OSINT	Open Source Intelligence	RAM	Random Access Memory
OSPF	Open Shortest Path First	RAS	Remote Access Server
OT	Operational Technology	RAT	Remote Access Trojan
OTA	Over The Air	RC4	Rivest Cipher version 4
OTG	On The Go	RCS	Rich Communication Services
OVAL	Open Vulnerability Assessment Language	RFC	Request for Comments
OWASP	Open Web Application Security Project	RFID	Radio Frequency Identifier
P12	PKCS #12	RIPEMD	RACE Integrity Primitives Evaluation Message Digest
P2P	Peer to Peer	ROI	Return on Investment
PaaS	Platform as a Service	RPO	Recovery Point Objective
PAC	Proxy Auto Configuration	RSA	Rivest, Shamir, & Adleman
PAM	Privileged Access Management	RTBH	Remote Triggered Black Hole
PAM	Pluggable Authentication Modules	RTO	Recovery Time Objective
PAP	Password Authentication Protocol	RTOS	Real-Time Operating System
PAT	Port Address Translation	RTOS	Real-Time Operating System
PBKDF2	Password Based Key Derivation Function 2	RTP	Real-Time Transport Protocol
PBX	Private Branch Exchange	S/MIME	Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
PCAP	Packet Capture		

ACRONYM	DEFINITION		
SaaS	Software as a Service		of Indicator Information
SAE	Simultaneous Authentication of Equals	TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
SAML	Security Assertions Markup Language	TGT	Ticket Granting Ticket
SAN	Storage Area Network	TKIP	Temporal Key Integrity Protocol
SAN	Subject Alternative Name	TLS	Transport Layer Security
SCADA	System Control and Data Acquisition	TOTP	Time-based One Time Password
SCAP	Security Content Automation Protocol	TPM	Trusted Platform Module
SCEP	Simple Certificate Enrollment Protocol	TSIG	Transaction Signature
SDK	Software Development Kit	TTP	Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures
SDLC	Software Development Life Cycle	UAT	User Acceptance Testing
SDLM	Software Development Life-cycle Methodology	UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
SDN	Software Defined Networking	UDP	User Datagram Protocol
SDV	Software Defined Visibility	UEFI	Unified Extensible Firmware Interface
SED	Self-Encrypting Drives	UEM	Unified Endpoint Management
SEH	Structured Exception Handler	UPS	Uninterruptable Power Supply
SFTP	Secured File Transfer Protocol	URI	Uniform Resource Identifier
SHA	Secure Hashing Algorithm	URL	Universal Resource Locator
SHTTP	Secure Hypertext Transfer Protocol	USB	Universal Serial Bus
SIEM	Security Information and Event Management	USB OTG	USB On The Go
SIM	Subscriber Identity Module	UTM	Unified Threat Management
SIP	Session Initiation Protocol	UTP	Unshielded Twisted Pair
SLA	Service Level Agreement	VBA	Visual Basic
SLE	Single Loss Expectancy	VDE	Virtual Desktop Environment
S/MIME	Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Exchanger	VDI	Virtual Desktop Infrastructure
SMS	Short Message Service	VLAN	Virtual Local Area Network
SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol	VLSM	Variable Length Subnet Masking
SMTPS	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol Secure	VM	Virtual Machine
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol	VoIP	Voice over IP
SOAP	Simple Object Access Protocol	VPC	Virtual Private Cloud
SOAR	Security Orchestration, Automation, Response	VPN	Virtual Private Network
SoC	System on Chip	VTC	Video Conferencing
SOC	Security Operations Center	WAF	Web Application Firewall
SPF	Sender Policy Framework	WAP	Wireless Access Point
SPIM	Spam over Internet Messaging	WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy
SQL	Structured Query Language	WIDS	Wireless Intrusion Detection System
SQLi	SQL Injection	WIPS	Wireless Intrusion Prevention System
SRTP	Secure Real-Time Protocol	WORM	Write Once Read Many
SSD	Solid State Drive	WPA	WiFi Protected Access
SSH	Secure Shell	WPS	WiFi Protected Setup
SSL	Secure Sockets Layer	WTLS	Wireless TLS
SSO	Single Sign On	XaaS	Anything as a Service
STIX	Structured Threat Information eXchange	XML	Extensible Markup Language
STP	Shielded Twisted Pair	XOR	Exclusive Or
SWG	Secure Web Gateway	XSRF	Cross-Site Request Forgery
TACACS+	Terminal Access Controller Access Control System	XSS	Cross-Site Scripting
TAXII	Trusted Automated eXchange		

Security+ Proposed Hardware and Software List

CompTIA has included this sample list of hardware and software to assist candidates as they prepare for the Security+ exam. This list may also be helpful for training companies that wish to create a lab component to their training offering. The bulleted lists below each topic are sample lists and are not exhaustive.

HARDWARE

- Laptop with Internet access
- Separate wireless NIC
- WAP
- Firewall
- UTM
- Mobile device
- Server/cloud server
- IoT devices

SOFTWARE

- Virtualization software
- Penetration testing OS/distributions (e.g., Kali Linux, ParrotOS)
- SIEM
- Wireshark
- Metasploit
- tcpdump

OTHER

- Access to a CSP