SANS Cloud Security focuses the deep resources of SANS on the growing threats to The Cloud by providing training, certification, research, and community initiatives to help security professionals build, deploy and manage secure cloud infrastructure, platforms, and applications.

SANS Cloud Security Curriculum provides intensive, immersion training designed to help you and your staff master the practical steps necessary for defending systems and applications in the cloud against the most dangerous threats. The courses are full of important and immediately useful techniques that you can put to work as soon as you return to your office. The curriculum has been developed through a consensus process involving industry leading engineers, architects, administrators, developers, security managers, and information security professionals, and address public cloud, multicloud, and hybrid-cloud scenarios for the enterprise and developing organizations alike.
SEC388: Introduction to Cloud Computing and Security

Ground School for Cloud Security

Is your organization planning on or currently using cloud technologies? Is the organization using more than one cloud vendor? Do you want to remain competitive in today’s information technology job market? Would you like to be able to speak the language of your cloud engineers and architects? If you answered yes to any of these questions, welcome to SEC388: Introduction to Cloud Computing and Security – the official on-ramp to the SANS Cloud Security Curriculum. In this course, you will find that the cloud is much more than “just someone else’s computer” and discover the various nuances and shifts of thinking required to become successful consumers of a vendor-hosted cloud environment. More than ever, the vast majority of organizations are shifting their business’ infrastructure to the cloud. Not only this, but they are very often doing so utilizing many different cloud vendors. This is known as multi-cloud and this course, unlike others, will take a vendor-neutral approach to discuss the components inside a cloud-hosted environment and how these components differ from traditional, on-premise environments.

“Great way to bring participants up-to-speed in the cloud security principles. I am a novice to the area and the course was at the right level for me to come up-to-speed. Thank you for this course – it answers many questions I had about the cloud. Nice to walk through this course prior to leaping into cloud adoption at our organization.”

—Flint Gatrell

SEC488: Cloud Security Essentials

License to Learn Cloud Security

SEC488 covers Amazon Web Services, Azure, Google Cloud, and other cloud service providers (CSPs). Like foreign languages, cloud environments have similarities and differences, and this course will introduce you to the language of cloud security. Upon completion of this course, you will be able to advise and speak about a wide range of cybersecurity topics and help your organization successfully navigate the challenges and opportunities presented by cloud service providers.

Daily Topics:
1. Identity and Access Management
2. Compute and Configuration Management
3. Data Protection and Automation
4. Networking and Logging
5. Compliance, Incident Response, and Penetration Testing
6. CloudWars

“This is a great course for system administrators and security practitioners who are transitioning, or thinking about transitioning, from a primarily on-premise workload to a public cloud workload.”

—Natalija Saviceva, FI
SEC510: Public Cloud Security: AWS, Azure, and GCP

Multiple clouds require multiple solutions.

SEC510 is an in-depth analysis of the security of managed services for the Big 3 cloud providers: Amazon Web Services, Azure, and Google Cloud Platform. Students will leave the course confident that they have the knowledge they need when adopting services and Platform as a Service (PaaS) offerings in each cloud. Students will launch unhardened services, analyze the security configuration, validate that they are insufficiently secure, deploy patches, and validate the remediation.

**Daily Topics:**
1. Cloud Credential Management
2. Cloud Virtual Networks
3. Encryption, Storage, and Logging
4. Severless Platforms
5. Cross-Account and Cross-Cloud Assessment

“Overall, this was a great class for Security practitioners to understand and identify misconfigurations across the ‘Big 3’ (AWS, Azure, and GCP) cloud providers.”
—Dustin Odya, The OCC

SEC522: Application Security: Securing Web Apps, APIs, and Microservices

It’s not a matter of “if” but “when.” Be prepared for a web attack. We’ll teach you how.

Web Applications are increasingly distributed. What used to be a complex monolithic application hosted on premise has become a distributed set of services incorporating on-premise legacy applications along with interfaces to cloud-hosted and cloud-native components. Because of this coupled with a lack of security knowledge, web applications are exposing sensitive corporate data. Security professionals are asked to provide validated and scalable solutions to secure this content in line with best industry practices using modern web application frameworks. Attending this class will not only raise awareness about common security flaws in modern web applications, but it will also teach students how to recognize and mitigate these flaws early and efficiently.

**Daily Topics:**
1. Web Fundamentals and Security Configurations
2. Input-Related Defenses
3. Authentication and Authorization
4. Web Services and Front-End Security
5. APIs and Microservices
6. DevSecOps and Defending the Flag

“This training is essential for anyone who needs to understand web protocol and application security and their limitations. This course provides a practical approach to many theoretical scenarios with relevant POCs within the course work.”
—Joel Samaroo, Visa Inc.
SEC540: Cloud Security and DevSecOps Automation

The cloud moves fast. Automate to keep up.

SEC540 provides security professionals with a methodology for securing modern Cloud and DevOps environments. Students learn how to implement over 20 DevSecOps Security Controls for building, testing, deploying, and monitoring cloud infrastructure and services. Immersive hand-on labs ensure students not only understand theory, but how to configure and implement each security control. By embracing the DevOps culture, you will walk away battle tested and ready to build to your organization’s Cloud and DevOps Security Program.

Daily Topics:
1. DevOps Security Automation
2. Cloud Infrastructure Security
3. Cloud Security Operations
4. Cloud Security as a Service
5. Compliance as Code

“Every single person I’ve sent to class has loved it. It’s been transformational for them because it goes beyond security concepts and teaches how modern operations and DevOps works. It’s also impactful sending developers (who are not working in cloud yet) because they want to develop in cloud and get into concepts like Infrastructure as Code.”
—Brett Cumming

SEC541: Cloud Security Attacker Techniques, Monitoring, and Threat Detection

Attackers can run but not hide. Our radar sees all threats.

Cloud infrastructure provides organizations with new and exciting services to better meet the demands of their customers. However, these services bring with them new challenges, particularly for organizations struggling to make sense of the cloud native logs, keeping ahead of fast-moving development teams, and trying to learn how threats are adapting to cloud services. Securely operating cloud infrastructure requires new tools and approaches for better visibility into the cloud environment threat landscape, ability to capture appropriate data, and most importantly to be able to analyze and correlate the data effectively and accurately to understand if the specific threat is legitimate based on your organization’s bigger picture.

Daily Topics:
1. Management Plane and Networking Logging
2. Computer and Cloud Services Logging
3. Cloud Service and Data Discovery
4. Microsoft Ecosystem
5. Automate Response Actions and CloudWars

“This had the right mix of AWS infrastructure background and methods of using AWS log data for threat hunting.”
—Brad Schonhorst, Sony
## SEC549: Enterprise Cloud Security Architecture

**Design it right from the start.**

The age of cloud computing has arrived as organizations have seen the advantages of migrating their applications from traditional on-premises networks. However, the rapid adoption of cloud has left architects scrambling to design on this new medium. A shift to the cloud requires cybersecurity professionals to reorient their security goals around a new threat model to enable business requirements while improving their organization’s security posture. SEC549 is here to help enable this shift. The course takes an architectural lens to enterprise-scale, cloud infrastructure challenges, addressing the security considerations architects need to address when tasked with business expansion into the cloud, from the secure usage of shared cloud-hosted data to the centralization of workforce identity.

**Daily Topics:**

1. Cloud Account Management and Identity Foundations
2. Implementing Zero-Trust in the Cloud

### Review Quote

“The labs were great! I enjoyed every second of this course and look forward to future SEC549 courses.”

— Nevan Beal, Raymond James

## SEC557: Cloud Security Continuous Compliance

**Measure what matters, not what’s easy.**

Agile development, DevOps, cloud technologies, and virtualization have enabled organizations to build and deploy systems at a terrifyingly fast rate. The old and cumbersome manual ways to test security and compliance can’t keep up. You need to understand and use the same tools and techniques that your developers and engineers are using, and you need to be able to generate results quickly and often - without slowing down your organization. SEC557 teaches professionals tasked with ensuring security and compliance how to stop being a roadblock and work at the speed of the modern enterprise.

**Daily Topics:**

1. Cloud Compliance Concepts
2. Inventory, Visibility, and Storage
3. Foundations: Compute, Network, and Infrastructure
4. Compliance Automation and Integration
5. Multi-Cloud Tools and Strategies

### Review Quote

“The content in this course is helping me understand the importance of scripting, data acquisition, and data automation. I think this course is a must for anyone looking to understand the importance of these topics.”

— Robert Hymus, Here Corp
**SEC588: Cloud Penetration Testing**

**Aim your arrows to the sky and penetrate the Cloud.**

SEC588 will equip you with the latest in cloud focused penetration testing techniques and teach you how to assess cloud environments. In this course we dive into topics like cloud based microservices, in-memory data stores, serverless functions, Kubernetes meshes, and containers, as well as identifying and testing in cloud-first and cloud-native applications. You will also learn specific tactics for penetration testing in Azure and AWS, particularly important given that Amazon Web Services and Microsoft account for more than half of the market. It’s one thing to assess and secure a datacenter, but it takes a specialized skill-set to truly assess and report on the risk that an organization faces if their cloud services are left insecure.

**Daily Topics:**
1. Architecture, Discovery, and Recon at Scale
2. Attacking Identity Systems
3. Attacking and Abusing Cloud Services
4. Vulnerabilities in Cloud-Native Applications
5. Infrastructure Attacks and Red Teaming
6. Capstone Event

“**It’s crucial information before you put your data in a cloud.**”
—Maria Lopez, NVCC

“**SEC588 taught me more than I expected. With the rapid development of new technologies offered by cloud providers, SEC588 has given me an important framework for cloud pen testing.**”
—Jonus Gerrits, Phillips66

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**FOR509: Enterprise Cloud Forensics & Incident Response**

**Find the storm in the Cloud**

The world is changing and so is the data we need to conduct our investigations. Cloud platforms change how data is stored and accessed. They remove the examiner’s ability to put their hands directly on the data. Many examiners are trying to force old methods for on-premise examination onto cloud hosted platforms. Rather than resisting change, examiners must learn to embrace the new opportunities presented to them in the form of new evidence sources. FOR509 addresses today's need to bring examiners up to speed with the rapidly changing world of enterprise cloud environments by uncovering the new evidence sources that only exist in the Cloud.

**Daily Topics:**
1. Microsoft 365 and Graph API
2. Microsoft Azure
3. Amazon Web Service (AWS)
4. Google Workspace
5. Google Cloud
6. Multi-Cloud Intrusion Challenge

“**FOR509 is very much needed in the industry as there is very little training out there for Cloud DFIR. So the fact that this course exists and is huge.**”
—Chester Le Bron Jr, Northwestern Mutual
MGT516: Managing Security Vulnerabilities: Enterprise and Cloud

Stop treating the symptoms. Cure the disease.

MGT516 helps you think strategically about vulnerability management in order to mature your organization’s program, but it also provides tactical guidance to help you overcome common challenges. By understanding and discussing solutions to typical issues that many organizations face across both traditional and cloud operating environments, you will be better prepared to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. The Cyber42 game that forms part of the course puts students in the driver’s seat for the fictional Everything Corporation (E-Corp) and allows them to select certain initiatives that will mature E-Corp’s VM program. Students will also need to choose how to respond to 13 realistic events that are sure to have an impact on their program. Depending on how students respond, E-Corp’s security culture and the maturity of the different components of its VM program will be impacted. These tabletop exercises will enable students to put the skills they are learning into practice when they return to work at their own organizations.

Daily Topics:
1. Overview: Cloud and Asset Management
2. Identify
3. Analyze and Communicate
4. Treat
5. Buy-in, Program, and Maturity

MGT520: Leading Cloud Security Design and Implementation

Building and Leading a Cloud Security Program

This course focuses on what managers, directors, and security leaders need to know to develop their cloud security roadmap, to manage the implementation of cloud security capabilities, as well as how to operate the cloud environment post-transition. Making the right security decisions when adopting the cloud requires understanding the technology, process, and people related to the cloud environment. This complements traditional IT management techniques that managers are accustomed to and helps with making the appropriate informed decisions.

Daily Topics:
2. Cloud Security Features and Capabilities
3. Securing Workloads, Operations, and Maturing the Program

“I like how the content builds and progresses. Jason clearly thought a lot about how to sequence the information to make it easy to digest.”
—Jim Pruitt, Revolutionary Security
## Role Descriptions

- **DevOps Professional** – Responsible for code creation
- **Cloud Security Analyst** – Responsible for deciphering
- **Cloud Security Engineer** – Responsible for building
- **Cloud Security Architecture** – Responsible for designing
- **Cloud Security Manager** – Responsible for leading

## Level Definitions

- **Baseline** – Courses that impart the baseline skills required of any information security professional involved in Cloud Security, whether active practitioner or manager.
- **Foundational** – Courses that provide the basic knowledge to introduce students to a required skill set for the Cloud Security industry specifically.
- **Core** – Courses that prepare professionals for more focused job functions in Cloud Security, including manager, architect, engineer, analyst, and developer.
- **Specialization** – Courses for critical, advanced skills, or specialized roles in Cloud Security.
- **Management** – Courses that prepare leaders to make sound strategic business decisions in regards to cloud security planning and implementation.

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### FLIGHT PLAN TO BECOMING A CLOUD ACE

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### BASELINE

- **SEC388: Introduction to Cloud Computing and Security**

### FOUNDATIONAL

- **SEC488: Cloud Security Essentials**
  - GIAC Cloud Security Essentials (GCLD)
- **SECS10: Public Cloud Security: AWS, Azure, and GCP**
  - GIAC Public Cloud Security (GPCS)
- **SECS40: Cloud Security and DevSecOps Automation**
  - GIAC Cloud Security Automation (GCSA)
- **SECS41: Cloud Security, Attacker Techniques, Monitoring, and Threat Detection**
- **SECS49: Enterprise Cloud Security Architecture**

### CORE

- **SECS22: Application Security: Securing Web Apps, APIs, and Microservices**
  - GIAC Certified Web Application Defender (GWEB)
- **SECS57: Cloud Security Continuous Compliance**
- **SECS58: Cloud Penetration Testing**
  - GIAC Cloud Penetration Tester (GCPN)
- **FOR509: Enterprise Cloud Forensics & Incident Response**
  - GIAC Cloud Forensics Responder (GCFR)

### SPECIALIZATION

- **MGT516: Managing Security Vulnerabilities: Enterprise & Cloud**
- **MGT520: Leading Cloud Security Design and Implementation**

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### LEVEL DEFINITIONS

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- **Core**
  - Courses that prepare professionals for more focused job functions in Cloud Security, including manager, architect, engineer, analyst, and developer.
- **Specialization**
  - Courses for critical, advanced skills, or specialized roles in Cloud Security.
- **Management**
  - Courses that prepare leaders to make sound strategic business decisions in regards to cloud security planning and implementation.
• **Security Focused** – Providing technical training to properly secure services and workloads in the cloud

• **Multicloud Approach** – Providing training and comparisons on the Big Three public cloud providers

• **Hands-on Labs** – Extensively focuses on “the how” to properly deploy and secure a cloud environment using virtual machines, lab environments, and repeatable exercises

• **Instructors** – Versatile, real-world security practitioners

• **Courseware** – Providing access to slides, notes, and audio files for future reference

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**Resources**

- **Landing Page** – www.sans.org/cloud-security
- **Twitter** – @SANSCloudSec
- **LinkedIn** – www.linkedin.com/showcase/sanscloudsec
- **YouTube** – www.youtube.com/c/SANSCloudSecurity