

# Train. Retain. Perform.

## The Business Case for Security Training That Delivers

### Headcount Doesn't Produce **High-Performing Teams**.

Strong security teams aren't built by adding more people. They're built by investing in the right ones.

- 52%** **of organizations** say “*not having the right staff*” is a bigger concern than lack of personnel
- 55%** **of organizations** now run formal cybersecurity training programs
- 65%** **of organizations** require cybersecurity certification for client-facing roles

Source: [SANS | GIAC 2025 Cybersecurity Workforce Research Report](#)



### Hiring is Expensive. **Training is Smarter.**

External hiring is costly. It's slow. And it doesn't guarantee the skills security teams actually need.

-  Cybersecurity roles take **3–6 months** to fill on average
-  A single bad hire can cost **up to \$35K**
-  It's **faster and more effective** to develop capabilities in-house through targeted training

Source: [“Cyber Skills Shortage: SANS to Triple Academy Scholarships by 2026”](#)

### Practitioners Want Hands-On Training. **Because It Works.**

When threats emerge, execution matters most. Hands-on training builds the instincts to act.

-  **Hands-on learners** retain **75%** of what they're taught. With lectures, that drops to **just 5%**
-  **52% of cybersecurity professionals** say they prefer interactive, scenario-based training over books or demos
-  **Teams trained hands-on** are significantly more likely to report **higher satisfaction** and **long-term engagement**

Source: [“Be Ready. Be Resilient: Hands-on Cybersecurity Training & Skill Validation for Real-World Threats”](#)

### Smarter Teams. Stronger Defense. **Clear ROI.**

New IDC research confirms the business value of SANS-trained teams.

- \$3.57M:** Average annual value delivered per organization
- \$52.7K:** Annual value per trained employee
- \$893.7K:** Annual external cybersecurity vendor costs avoided
- \$990.6K:** Annual fraud damage costs avoided
- \$124K:** Annual hiring costs avoided
- 4.2x faster** threat identification and **51.6% faster** incident response time

**“SANS training makes employees more creative and effective problem solvers. They design and engineer solutions that are more elegant, cost-effective, and relevant to the business.”** - *Utilities Organization*

Source: [IDC White Paper, Sponsored by SANS Institute, “The Business Value of SANS,” Doc #EUR153291525, June 2025](#)

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## Unlock the Value of SANS Training

You don't need a bigger team.  
*You need a better-trained one.*

As cyber threats accelerate, preparedness determines your protection. **Download the IDC white paper, sponsored by SANS Institute, “The Business Value of SANS”** to discover the benefits workforce training delivers for your organization.

