THE IMPORTANCE AND NEED FOR PROFESSIONALS IN CYBER SECURITY

Unfilled cyber security jobs will reach 1.5 million by 2019.

This year, analysts and the media concluded there is a severe shortage of cyber security talent globally. There were 1 million cyber security job openings in 2016, and that is expected to reach 1.5 million by 2019. As a result, the cyber security unemployment rate has dropped to zero percent.

As the use of technology increases in our society, so also are the risks involved in it and the need for safety and security. In this ever advancing world of technological growth and development, there is a crucial need for talented executives to handle cyber security.

In this world where everything operates on the web, there have been high profile cyber-attacks on major corporations and financial institutions-including J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. and Yahoo Inc., This has convinced many board of directors and of many companies including the fortune 500 that cyber security is of critical importance in their risk management responsibilities. But what is not clear is whether there are enough well trained and talented cyber security executives ready to establish and maintain a flexible cyber-infrastructure in those firms.

In a recent study, 54% of the 437 global firms- that participated in a poll said they suffered at least one security incident in the past year and attributed it to a lack of security staff or security training. Also according to Enterprise Strategy Group

(An Information Systems Security Association and Analysis firm), 56% of respondents claimed there was no provision of tools, experience and necessary training needed to combat developing threats. The study proved that corporate cyber security teams are overworked and untrained thereby having no burst of enthusiasm which results in putting at risk, consumer financial information and data.

For the most part, dealing with the issues of cyber security has involved developing voluntary set of best practices covering whole industries, rather than imposing regulations and enforcing requirements. In as much as these voluntary regulations are important for creating standard priorities and quick response procedures, they will not improve cyber-infrastructure on their own.

According to Cyber security Ventures, a leading Global researcher and publisher covering global cyber economy, the most dangerous emerging crisis in information security is a critical cyber-security labor shortage, expected to reach 1.5 million job openings by 2019.

In the world today certification has been giving a larger role than knowledge and talent. When hiring information-technology employees, certifications in cyber security are highly valued and grossly overestimated. A more effective strategy would be for firms to hire talented professionals who show cyber security capabilities that would be of great help on the job, and to institute training for staffs and for all IT employees and interns to make sure that the cyber security of the firm is monitored at every stage of development and management because someday soon, if not already, you will face a new threat. How will you defend your business?

Abdulaziz AL-Humoud
Senior Security Engineer