



Cyber Security Skills Audit Report

About the Research

This project set out to examine the shape of the cybersecurity sector in the North West (NW) region as well as identify the key skill gaps and challenges that need to be addressed to help the sector grow and flourish. **26** interviews with subject matter experts. **25** organisations surveyed.

Strengths

The research reveals that the region has a number of core strengths that make it an attractive location for cybersecurity investment.

- A new university – Atlantic Technological University (ATU)
- Large anchor clients – Optum and Tata Consultancy Services
- Lower cost base – both housing and salaries (on average)
- Access to nearby clusters – NI Cyber and Cyber Ireland’s West Chapter

Key Findings

The region has two large, established, global cybersecurity operators.

220

There are over **220** new roles planned for the region in the short term.

250

There are up to **250** cyber professionals working in the region.

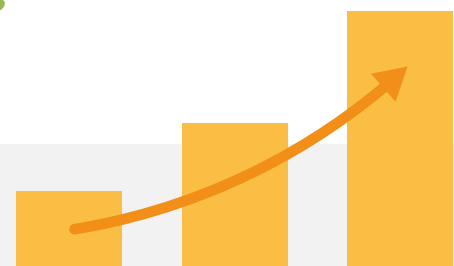
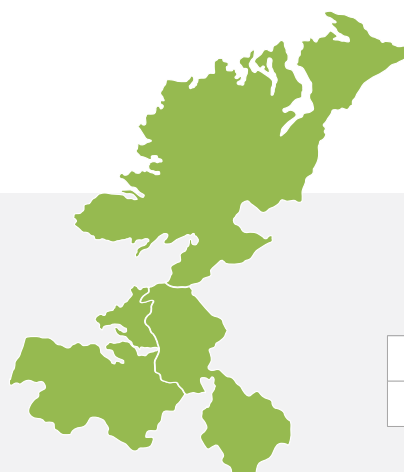
489

There are **489** cybersecurity firms operating in the ROI, however only 10 have an office in the NW region.

Employment Growth



Growth in Cyber Jobs



250	470	830
2022	2024	2030
CURRENT	PLANNED	POTENTIAL



Recruitment

Only **30%** (est.) of cyber roles in the region are filled by people from within the region.



Education

There are over **40** degree level programmes covering cybersecurity in the ROI.



Spotlight on SMEs

Awareness is increasing, action is lagging.

TOP TRAINING NEEDS	MOST IN DEMAND ROLES –TYPE (RANKED)
1. Cloud Security	1. SOC L1 Analyst
2. DevSecOps	2. IAM Solution Specialist
3. Cyber playbooks	3. Cloud Security Engineer
4. Network security	4. SOC L2/L3 Analyst
5. Penetration testing	5. Senior Cyber Consultant / Vulnerability Analysts
6. Security frameworks	
7. Security Operations Centre	
8. Vulnerability management	

- **85%** of SMEs responding have a plan in place to deal with the increasing cybersecurity threats
- **80%** have prioritised cyber awareness training as a key need in the coming year
- **75%** do not have a dedicated internal resource to manage cybersecurity, and only half of these plan to change this situation



The Way Forward

The research resulted in a number of recommendations for the region to help improve and expand cybersecurity within the region. These include:

Promote the NW region's Cyber Sector:	Create a Cybersecurity Culture:	Build a Talent Pipeline for Cyber:
Promotion Showcase to highlight the region as a great location for cybersecurity.	Cyber Awareness Training for SMEs to strengthen the region's cybersecurity.	Cybersecurity job readiness programmes to help graduates move into new cyber roles.
An Attraction Campaign to bring new cybersecurity talent into the region.	Cybersecurity Standards to increase cybersecurity maturity in the region.	Career guidance and mentoring for students showing the opportunities in cybersecurity.
Cybersecurity Research Plan to help drive innovation in the sector.	An enhanced Cyber Community offering more events and network opportunities.	Cybersecurity training for IT and other employees with cybersecurity responsibilities.

Summary

Final thoughts

This research found a burgeoning cybersecurity ecosystem very well placed to take advantage of the growth opportunities available in this industry.