



THE CYBERSECURITY CHEAT CODE

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## PROLOGUE

# The Power Within You

WHEN I FINISHED HIGH SCHOOL, I had training in electronics. What I didn't have was a clear direction. On paper, I had a trade. In practice, I wasn't using it.

I wasn't working in electronics or taking courses to keep my skills sharp. What I'd learned was already starting to fade.

My electronics teacher had urged us to earn our CompTIA A+ certification as a first step toward a job in information technology.

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*Did we listen? I don't think we did. I know I didn't.*

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Instead, I continued working as a dietary aide in a hospital kitchen, a job I'd held since I was sixteen. I'd finished school, but my working life looked much the same. I had training for one kind of work and a paycheck from another.

My next move was within the same hospital, from the kitchen to the cardiology department, where I became a Patient Care Services Aide. It was meaningful work, but it wasn't the technical career I'd trained for.

Being closer to patient care began to change how I saw my own direction. I still didn't have a clear plan.