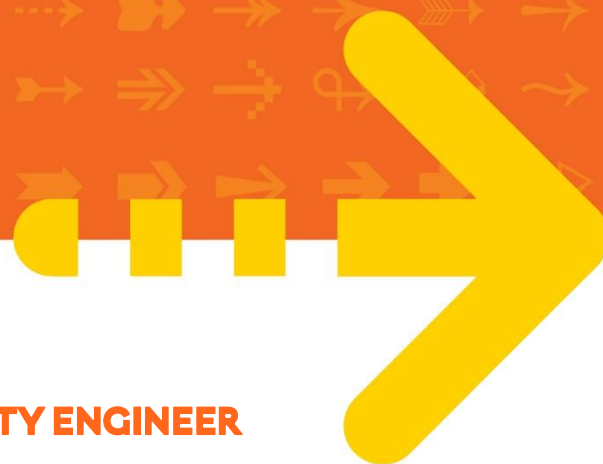




**BEN
HYDE**



OPERATIONAL TECHNOLOGY SECURITY ENGINEER

SSE, Havant (Hampshire)

“It’s a modern catch-22: how can you gain experience without having any experience? Well, an apprenticeship is your chance.”

A top cyber achiever

Ben is our first cyber security apprentice to achieve a top-notch Distinction grade, and his future’s only going up from here. His apprenticeship with energy company SSE helped him decide what he wanted to do as a career and hit the ground running. And with loads more cyber security certifications on his radar, he’s not planning to stop building his knowledge anytime soon.

How I got here

I’ve always had an interest in IT but struggled to pin down what specific area I’d like to follow as a career. An apprenticeship can open your eyes to a lot of different areas to help you work out what you enjoy and where your strengths and weaknesses are. The chance to learn both academically and through actual hands-on experience has been such a great opportunity!

What it’s been like

One of the main pieces I’m working on now is an audit for a big security compliancy standard, which is a large-scale project. Being able to work across a multitude of teams at SSE has given me great insight into how the teams work together, as well as general knowledge of how an organisation works. Getting to meet many new people like my colleagues and fellow apprentices was a fantastic experience. The courses provided by QA were very high quality, both in material as well as the trainers themselves. It was also just fun being with fellow apprentices, learning together and helping one another.

Career plans

My next role will deal with a wide variety of areas within security, which will give me further exposure and understanding of what areas I’d like to lean towards. I’m very keen on continual learning and will be looking to gain as many certifications as possible: Network+, Security+, CCNA, etc. Right now I am very interested in penetration testing, but that may change to something different in the future.

Conquer the catch-22

I can't stress enough how enjoyable and fulfilling completing an apprenticeship is. We all know how hard it can be as a young person to get experience considering the modern-day catch-22 of "How am I supposed to gain experience to find a good job if I'm constantly turned down for not having any?" Well, an apprenticeship is your chance. Go for it!

My top job tip

Create good relationships with your colleagues – it makes your working environment that much more enjoyable, but also, knowing who to go to for certain things will save you a tonne of time chasing around to find the right person. It also works the other way around; try to make a name for yourself for being someone willing to help, as people will know to come to you for advice. Also, It's so important in life to have a goal, even if it seems unreachable – you will always be going upwards trying to reach it.

