

Every acronym in the official exam objectives, expanded. A free study resource.

302 acronyms, grouped by topic and sorted A to Z. Print it, pin it, and check off the ones you know cold.

Cloud & Virtualization

- CASB** Cloud Access Security Broker
- CSP** Cloud Service Provider
- IaaS** Infrastructure as a Service
- IaC** Infrastructure as Code
- MaaS** Monitoring as a Service
- PaaS** Platform as a Service
- SaaS** Software as a Service
- VDI** Virtual Desktop Infrastructure
- VM** Virtual Machine
- VPC** Virtual Private Cloud

Cryptography & PKI

- AES** Advanced Encryption Standard
- AES-256** Advanced Encryption Standard 256-bit
- CA** Certificate Authority
- CBC** Cipher Block Chaining
- CFB** Cipher Feedback
- CRL** Certificate Revocation List
- CSR** Certificate Signing Request
- DES** Data Encryption Standard
- DHE** Diffie-Hellman Ephemeral
- DSA** Digital Signature Algorithm
- ECB** Electronic Codebook
- ECC** Elliptic Curve Cryptography
- ECDHE** Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman Ephemeral
- ECDSA** Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm
- GCM** Galois/Counter Mode
- GPG** GNU Privacy Guard
- HMAC** Hash-based Message Authentication Code
- HSM** Hardware Security Module
- IKE** Internet Key Exchange
- IPSec** Internet Protocol Security
- IV** Initialization Vector
- KEK** Key Encryption Key
- MAC (message)** Message Authentication Code
- OCSP** Online Certificate Status Protocol
- OID** Object Identifier
- PEM** Privacy Enhanced Mail
- PFS** Perfect Forward Secrecy
- PKCS** Public Key Cryptography Standards
- PKI** Public Key Infrastructure
- RA** Registration Authority
- RC4** Rivest Cipher 4
- RSA** Rivest-Shamir-Adleman
- SHA** Secure Hash Algorithm
- SSL** Secure Sockets Layer
- TLS** Transport Layer Security
- XOR** Exclusive OR

Data Protection & Privacy

- DBA** Database Administrator
- DLP** Data Loss Prevention
- EFS** Encrypting File System
- FDE** Full Disk Encryption
- HDD** Hard Disk Drive
- PHI** Protected Health Information
- PII** Personally Identifiable Information
- RAID** Redundant Array of Independent Disks
- SED** Self-Encrypting Drive
- SSD** Solid State Drive

Email & Messaging

- DKIM** DomainKeys Identified Mail
- DMARC** Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting, and Conformance
- IM** Instant Messaging
- IMAP** Internet Message Access Protocol
- PGP** Pretty Good Privacy
- POP** Post Office Protocol
- S/MIME** Secure/Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions
- SMTP** Simple Mail Transfer Protocol
- SMTPS** Simple Mail Transfer Protocol Secure
- SPF** Sender Policy Framework
- SPIM** Spam over Instant Messaging

Endpoint, Host & Application

- API** Application Programming Interface
- ASLR** Address Space Layout Randomization
- AV** Antivirus
- BASH** Bourne Again Shell
- BIOS** Basic Input/Output System
- CMS** Content Management System
- DEP** Data Execution Prevention
- DLL** Dynamic Link Library
- EDR** Endpoint Detection and Response
- FACL** File System Access Control List
- FPGA** Field Programmable Gate Array
- GPO** Group Policy Object
- HIDS** Host-based Intrusion Detection System
- HIPS** Host-based Intrusion Prevention System
- HTML** Hypertext Markup Language
- IoT** Internet of Things
- MFD** Multifunction Device
- MFP** Multifunction Printer
- NTFS** New Technology File System
- OS** Operating System
- PED** Personal Electronic Device
- RTOS** Real-Time Operating System
- SDK** Software Development Kit
- SDLC** Software Development Lifecycle
- SOAP** Simple Object Access Protocol
- SoC** System on Chip
- SQL** Structured Query Language
- TPM** Trusted Platform Module
- UEFI** Unified Extensible Firmware Interface
- UEM** Unified Endpoint Management
- USB** Universal Serial Bus
- USB OTG** USB On-the-Go
- WAF** Web Application Firewall
- XML** Extensible Markup Language

Governance, Risk & Compliance

- ALE** Annualized Loss Expectancy
- ARO** Annualized Rate of Occurrence
- AUP** Acceptable Use Policy
- BCP** Business Continuity Plan
- BIA** Business Impact Analysis
- BPA** Business Partners Agreement
- CAR** Corrective Action Report
- CIA** Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability
- CIO** Chief Information Officer
- COOP** Continuity of Operations Plan
- CP** Contingency Planning
- CSO** Chief Security Officer
- CTO** Chief Technology Officer
- DPO** Data Protection Officer

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DRP Disaster Recovery Plan
ERP Enterprise Resource Planning
GDPR General Data Protection Regulation
ISO International Organization for Standardization
ISSO Information Systems Security Officer
MOA Memorandum of Agreement
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
MSA Master Service Agreement
MSP Managed Service Provider
MTBF Mean Time Between Failures
MTTF Mean Time to Failure
NDA Non-Disclosure Agreement
NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology
PCI DSS Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard
ROI Return on Investment
RTO Recovery Time Objective
SLA Service Level Agreement
SLE Single Loss Expectancy
SOW Statement of Work
UAT User Acceptance Testing

Identity & Access Management

AAA Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting
CAPTCHA Completely Automated Public Turing Test to Tell Computers and Humans Apart
CHAP Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol
DAC Discretionary Access Control
EAP Extensible Authentication Protocol
FAR False Acceptance Rate
FRR False Rejection Rate
HOTP HMAC-based One-Time Password
IAM Identity and Access Management
IdP Identity Provider
KDC Key Distribution Center
LDAP Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
MAC Mandatory Access Control
MFA Multifactor Authentication
NTLM New Technology LAN Manager
OAuth Open Authorization
PAM Privileged Access Management
PAM (modules) Pluggable Authentication Modules
PAP Password Authentication Protocol
PIV Personal Identity Verification
RBAC Role-Based Access Control
RBAC (rule) Rule-Based Access Control
SAML Security Assertion Markup Language
SSO Single Sign-On
TACACS+ Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus
TGT Ticket Granting Ticket
TOTP Time-based One-Time Password
ZTNA Zero Trust Network Access

Network & Infrastructure

ACL Access Control List
AH Authentication Header
ARP Address Resolution Protocol
BGP Border Gateway Protocol
BPDU Bridge Protocol Data Unit
CRC Cyclic Redundancy Check
CSU Channel Service Unit
DHCP Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
DNAT Destination Network Address Translation
DNS Domain Name System
DNSSEC Domain Name System Security Extensions
ESP Encapsulating Security Payload
FTP File Transfer Protocol

FTPS File Transfer Protocol Secure
GRE Generic Routing Encapsulation
HTTP Hypertext Transfer Protocol
HTTPS Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure
ICMP Internet Control Message Protocol
ICS Industrial Control System
IEEE Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IP Internet Protocol
ISP Internet Service Provider
L2TP Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol
LAN Local Area Network
MAC (address) Media Access Control Address
MAN Metropolitan Area Network
MPLS Multiprotocol Label Switching
MTU Maximum Transmission Unit
NAC Network Access Control
NAT Network Address Translation
NGFW Next-Generation Firewall
NTP Network Time Protocol
OSPF Open Shortest Path First
OT Operational Technology
P2P Peer-to-Peer
PAC Proxy Auto Configuration
PAT Port Address Translation
PBX Private Branch Exchange
POTS Plain Old Telephone Service
PPP Point-to-Point Protocol
PPTP Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol
RADIUS Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service
RAS Remote Access Server
RDP Remote Desktop Protocol
SASE Secure Access Service Edge
SCADA Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SD-WAN Software-Defined Wide Area Network
SDN Software-Defined Networking
SFTP Secure File Transfer Protocol
SNMP Simple Network Management Protocol
SRTP Secure Real-Time Transport Protocol
SSH Secure Shell
STP Shielded Twisted Pair
SWG Secure Web Gateway
TCP Transmission Control Protocol
UDP User Datagram Protocol
URI Uniform Resource Identifier
UTM Unified Threat Management
UTP Unshielded Twisted Pair
VLAN Virtual Local Area Network
VLSM Variable Length Subnet Masking
VoIP Voice over Internet Protocol
VPN Virtual Private Network

Physical & Environmental

CCTV Closed-Circuit Television
HVAC Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning
IDF Intermediate Distribution Frame
MDF Main Distribution Frame
PDU Power Distribution Unit
RFID Radio Frequency Identification
UAV Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UPS Uninterruptible Power Supply

Security Operations & Monitoring

AI Artificial Intelligence
AIS Automated Indicator Sharing
ATT&CK Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge

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CERT Computer Emergency Response Team

CIRT Computer Incident Response Team

CVE Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures

CVSS Common Vulnerability Scoring System

FIM File Integrity Monitoring

HA High Availability

IDS Intrusion Detection System

IoC Indicators of Compromise

IPS Intrusion Prevention System

IR Incident Response

IRP Incident Response Plan

ML Machine Learning

MSSP Managed Security Service Provider

MTTR Mean Time to Repair

NIDS Network-based Intrusion Detection System

NIPS Network-based Intrusion Prevention System

PCAP Packet Capture

RPO Recovery Point Objective

SCAP Security Content Automation Protocol

SIEM Security Information and Event Management

SOAR Security Orchestration, Automation, and Response

SOC Security Operations Center

STIX Structured Threat Information eXpression

TAXII Trusted Automated eXchange of Indicator Information

UEBA User and Entity Behavior Analytics

XDR Extended Detection and Response

WIDS Wireless Intrusion Detection System

WIPS Wireless Intrusion Prevention System

WPA Wi-Fi Protected Access

WPS Wi-Fi Protected Setup

Threats, Attacks & Malware

APT Advanced Persistent Threat

CSRF Cross-Site Request Forgery

DDoS Distributed Denial-of-Service

DoS Denial-of-Service

GPU Graphics Processing Unit

IRC Internet Relay Chat

OSINT Open-Source Intelligence

RAT Remote Access Trojan

SEH Structured Exception Handler

SQLi SQL Injection

TTP Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures

URL Uniform Resource Locator

VBA Visual Basic for Applications

XSRF Cross-Site Request Forgery

XSS Cross-Site Scripting

Wireless & Mobile

AP Access Point

BYOD Bring Your Own Device

CCMP Counter Mode/CBC-MAC Protocol

COPE Corporate-Owned, Personally Enabled

CYOD Choose Your Own Device

ESN Electronic Serial Number

GPS Global Positioning System

LEAP Lightweight Extensible Authentication Protocol

MDM Mobile Device Management

MMS Multimedia Messaging Service

NFC Near Field Communication

OTA Over-the-Air

PEAP Protected Extensible Authentication Protocol

PSK Pre-Shared Key

SAE Simultaneous Authentication of Equals

SIM Subscriber Identity Module

SMS Short Message Service

TKIP Temporal Key Integrity Protocol

WAP Wireless Access Point

WEP Wired Equivalent Privacy