



Building Career in Ethical Hacking

Complete Route Map to Start a Career in Ethical Hacking

Designed for learners who commented "Routemap" on Instagram – from the desk of [@ankurdecodes](#).





1. Introduction: Why Ethical Hacking Is One of the Most In-Demand Careers Today

Cyber attacks, data breaches, and online frauds are increasing every year. Companies, banks, startups, and even governments need ethical hackers to secure their systems.

This makes ethical hacking one of the **highest-paying and future-proof career** options today.

Whether you want a stable job, remote freelance projects, or earnings through bug bounty programs — this roadmap will help you start from zero and become job-ready.

2. Step-by-Step Route Map to Become an Ethical Hacker

Step 1: Build Strong IT & Networking Foundations (1–2 Months)

Before hacking, you must understand how computer systems work.

Essential Concepts to Learn:

- Basics of computers & operating systems
- What is a server? Client? IP address?
- DNS, DHCP, Subnetting
- Firewalls & proxies
- Basics of network security

Must Learn Networking Topics:

- TCP/IP model
- OSI layers
- Ports & protocols (HTTP, FTP, SSH, Telnet)
- VPNs & encryption basics



Recommended Tools to Practice:

- Cisco Packet Tracer
- Wireshark (network traffic analysis)

Goal of this step: Understand how systems communicate so you know how to secure them.

Step 2: Learn Linux & Command Line (1 Month)

Most hacking work happens on Linux — especially Kali Linux, Parrot OS, and Ubuntu.

Learn These Linux Commands:

- File navigation (ls, cd, cp, mv)
- User & permission management
- Installing packages
- Networking commands (ifconfig, netstat, traceroute)

Tools to Practice:

- Kali Linux
- Termux (mobile)
- VirtualBox / VMware

Goal: Become comfortable with Linux — it's the backbone of cyber security.

Step 2: Learn Linux & Command Line (1 Month)

Understand how systems are attacked, so you know how to defend them.

Core Topics to Learn:

- Footprinting & Reconnaissance
- Scanning & Enumeration
- Vulnerability analysis
- System hacking
- Password attacks



- Malware & Trojans
- Sniffing attacks
- SQL injection
- Cross-site scripting (XSS)
- Social engineering

Famous Tools You Must Practice:

- Nmap
- Burp Suite
- Metasploit
- Hydra
- John the Ripper
- Nikto
- Aircrack-ng

Goal: Understand how hackers think – and how to ethically test systems.

Step 4: Build Practical Skills Through Real-World Labs (1 Month)

Theory is important, but hands-on practice is what makes you a real ethical hacker.

Best Platforms to Practice (Free + Paid):

- TryHackMe
- HackTheBox
- PortSwigger Web Academy
- Root Me
- VulnHub

Practice On:

- Web app vulnerabilities
- Network attack simulation
- Penetration testing

Goal: Build confidence in real hacking scenarios.



Bonus Tip:

To explore trending AI tools quickly, you may try [Techyuni's Chrome extension](#), which helps you discover hundreds of AI tools — free & paid — in a single click.

Step 5: Explore Career Paths in Ethical Hacking

There is no single path — you can choose based on your interests.

1. Penetration Tester (Pentester)

Test websites, servers, APIs, networks for vulnerabilities.

2. Cyber Security Analyst

Monitor & protect company infrastructure.

3. Bug Bounty Hunter

Find vulnerabilities in companies like Google, Meta, Apple — get paid in thousands of dollars.

4. Network Security Engineer

Secure networks, configure firewalls, protect against attacks.

5. SOC Analyst

Work in Security Operations Center to detect & stop attacks.

6. Freelance Ethical Hacker

Remote work, hourly projects, companies hire for audits.

Step 6: Certifications That Boost Your Career

These certifications add credibility to your profile and improve salary.

1. CEH — Certified Ethical Hacker (EC-Council)

- Great for beginners
- Industry-recognized
- Covers most hacking fundamentals

2. OSCP — Offensive Security Certified Professional

- Highly respected globally
- Very practical & intense exam
- Best for penetration testers



3. Bug Bounty Programs

Not a certification, but a career opportunity. You can earn rewards by finding vulnerabilities in:

- HackerOne
- Bugcrowd
- Synack

Other Helpful Certifications:

- CompTIA Security+
- eJPT
- Google Cybersecurity Certificate

Step 7: Build Projects & Portfolio (1 Month)

Every ethical hacker should have:

Portfolio Must Include:

- Vulnerability assessment reports
- Penetration testing reports
- Write-ups of challenges solved (TryHackMe / HTB)
- GitHub repository with scripts/tools

Project Ideas:

- Web vulnerability scanner
- Network monitoring dashboard
- Password strength analyzer
- Log analysis automation

Goal: Show companies that you have real hands-on skills.



Step 8: Apply for Jobs / Freelance / Bug Bounty

Once you have skills + portfolio:

Job Roles to Apply For:

- Ethical Hacker
- Security Analyst
- Junior Pentester
- SOC Analyst
- Threat Analyst

Work From Home Opportunities:

- Bug bounty hunting
- Freelance penetration testing
- Security consulting
- Network security audits

Websites for Freelance Cybersecurity Work:

- Upwork
- Freelancer
- Fiverr
- Toptal (advanced)

3. 6-Month Ethical Hacking Learning Timeline

- Month 1: Networking + Linux
- Month 2: Ethical hacking fundamentals
- Month 3: Tools + hands-on labs
- Month 4: Advanced attack techniques + reports
- Month 5: Certifications preparation
- Month 6: Portfolio + job hunting + bug bounty



4. Pro Tips from @ankurdecodes

- Learn for at least 1 hour every day
- Practice regularly on hacking labs
- Build a strong hacker mindset — think like an attacker
- Document everything you learn
- Stay updated — cyber security evolves very fast
- Use good tools to explore new tech and cyber solutions

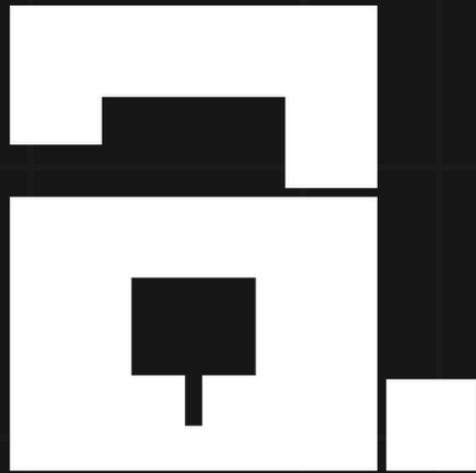
5. Your Next Step

You received this document because you commented “Routemap” on the video.

Follow this roadmap for the next few months, and you can build a strong, **high-paying ethical hacking career** — whether in a company or through bug bounties.

For more insights, daily tech breakdowns, cyber security tips, and career guidance — make sure you **follow @ankurdecodes**.

Stay curious. Stay secure. Your ethical hacking career starts today. 🗝️🚀



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