CONNECTWISE

Building It Yourself: The Cost of Setting Up Your Own SOC

Setting up a dedicated 24/7 organization to combat cybersecurity threats can be extremely costly. **Most models say between $2-4 million.** We've provided some highly conservative numbers below to give you an idea of the costs and challenges associated with setting up your own Security Operations Center.

Staffing:

For true 24/7 support, you need a minimum of 10-12 techs at a starting salary of $75,000*.

1. With the cybersecurity unemployment rate at 0% and roughly 3.5 million cybersecurity jobs open globally, finding (and retaining) talent will be challenging and costly. You'll likely need to include a competitive benefits package on top of the base salary.

2. You'll need to consider staffing different tier levels. Needless to say each level requires additional knowledge and experience which, you guessed it, commands a higher starting salary.

Tier 1 is a Triage Specialist with a starting salary of $75,000

Tier 2 operates as an Incident Responder

Tier 3 is your Threat Hunter

Tier 4 is the SOC Manager

You can also consider positions like **Forensic Specialist** and **Malware Engineer**.

## Technology, Tools and Infrastructure:

Traditional tools used in the SOC include:

» Security information and event management (SIEM)
» Governance, risk and compliance (GRC) systems
» Vulnerability scanners and penetration testing tools
» Intrusion detection systems (IDS), intrusion prevention systems (IPS), and wireless intrusion prevention
» Firewalls and next-generation firewalls (NGFW) which can function as an IPS
» Log management systems (commonly as part of the SIEM)
» Cyber threat intelligence feeds and databases

You'll also need to provide basic employee technology like laptops.

Expense	Qty	Cost	Total
SOC Team	10	$75,000	$750,000
Management/SME	2	$140,000	$280,000
Benefits	12	$6,000	$72,000
Certs/CEU	12	$3,000	$36,000
Network	1	$60,000	$60,000
Infrastructure	1	$250,000	$250,000
Licenses	1	$750,000	$750,000
Marketing	1	$75,000	$75,000
Sales	1	$125,000	$125,000
Total			**$2,398,000**

*The salary range for a SOC analyst begins at $75,000 and increases depending on location, level of cybersecurity qualifications/certifications and experience as well as additional benefits.

Check out https://www.salary.com/research/salary/listing/soc-analyst-salary for a location specific estimate.
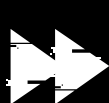
Your customers are relying on you to advise and help address their security needs. You can build, buy or partner to gain the skillset necessary to address these challenges. Each option comes with it's own pros and cons. Use the costs above as a quick estimate of the financial investment required to build your own SOC. *Hint: the other options are less expensive.*

Learn how the ConnectWise SOC can save on these costs.

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