

# ASICS Cyber-Incident Response Team Establishes Baseline Skills with CompTIA Certification



## CHALLENGES

- **Increased Cybersecurity Needs:** Following a series of cybersecurity incidents, ASICS decided to create an enterprise-level information security committee and information security management office.
- **Expanded Service Demands:** Despite having incident response processes in place, ASICS needed to respond to cybersecurity threats in a more timely and effective fashion.



## SOLUTIONS

- **Worldwide Network:** ASICS created a network of contacts to facilitate communication about potential cybersecurity threats and incidents between its many regions.
- **CompTIA Certified Staff:** ASICS now requires CompTIA Security+ to set a baseline of skills for developing information security talent.



## RESULTS

- **Improved Process:** ASICS created and implemented a new, more effective process for managing security threats and incidents that incorporated CompTIA certification.
- **Dedicated Team:** ASICS established an incident response team as it ramped up for the 2020 Olympic Paralympic games (for which ASICS is a gold partner).



ASICS is a global athletic corporation based in Japan with operations in more than 50 countries and regions. The company has been a leader in the athletic industry since its inception as a youth-oriented organization six decades ago.

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– **Shigekazu Tanimoto**  
Security Lead, Security Team, Global IT Division, ASICS

## LESSONS LEARNED

- As a multi-region, global company, ASICS needs to be able to quickly and effectively respond to cybersecurity threats.
- CompTIA certification provides the cybersecurity response team with solid baseline security training.
- CompTIA Security+ validates the IT security skills needed to effectively manage and secure networks.

# ASICS Preps for 2020 and Beyond with CompTIA Security+



A well-known name in the world of athletics, global multinational company ASICS was challenged to keep its networks secure. ASICS has built up a presence in more than 50 regions, but its cybersecurity operations hadn't scaled accordingly. And, so, as the global cybersecurity threat landscape began to grow, the company realized something needed to change.

This became clear when, in 2015, ASICS fell victim to a few incidents that neither the company's information security committee nor their information security management office were able to quickly and effectively address. The processes in place were not effective, and the staff tasked with handling such incidents didn't have the comprehensive baseline security knowledge to adequately handle threats coming down the pike.

The key to helping IT staff build these skills — and building a cybersecurity profile befitting of a global leader — was to in-

troduce CompTIA Security+ as a necessary requirement for the computer security incident response team (CSIRT).

"As we look toward the future, we have adopted CompTIA certification as a requirement for developing security talent," said Shigekazu Tanimoto, ASICS security lead, security team, global IT division. "We believe the global standard certification is effective for a CSIRT capable of flexibility for responding to incidents."

Since the implementation of Security+, ASICS has demonstrated quicker and more effective responses to cybersecurity threats. And the value of the certifications is reflected in the experience of those doing the hands-on cybersecurity work as well. "Since I started working on enhancing our company's information security in 2016, I started to feel the importance of understanding servers, networking and operations more comprehensively," said Osamu Murakami, ASICS security team,

global IT division. "The CompTIA exam was a perfect opportunity to restructure my information security knowledge."

**"Attaining the CompTIA Security+ certification gave me confidence to speak in the same channel with security consultants and experts globally and learned best practices from each other."**

**– Alvin Lee**  
Security Team, Global IT Division, ASICS

Now ASICS has a big event on the horizon that will put the team's cybersecurity skills to the test.

As a gold partner for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Paralympic Games, the company will be garnering public attention — and a higher public profile often comes with unwanted attention from hackers. But with a CompTIA Security+-certified IT team, ASICS will be up to the task.

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**– Osamu Murakami, Security Team, Global IT Division, ASICS**

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