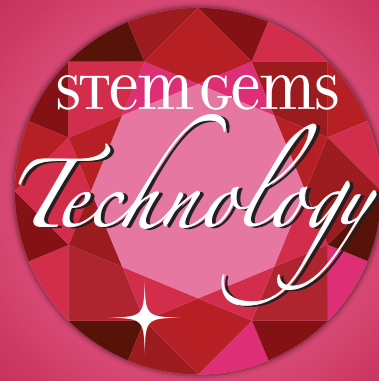


STEM Gem Career:  
**ONLINE SECURITY EXPERT**

STEM Gem:  
**LORRIE FAITH CRANOR**

*"I've always thought of myself as an interdisciplinary person. It's a great career path for people who have many interests."*



Is a career as an Online Security Expert in your future? Are you enthralled with protecting the digital world? STEM Gem Lorrie Faith Cranor is blazing new trails as a technologist in digital privacy. Read her story and digest. Consider watching one of her videos. Then, with your STEM Gems Tribe, **discuss, explore, reflect, and act.**

## **DISCUSS**

1. How do Online Security Experts make a difference in the world?
2. What experiences did Professor Cranor have that led to her pursuit of a career as an Online Security Expert?
3. What is Professor Cranor's educational background?
4. What are some of the challenges that Professor Cranor faced along her journey?
5. What are some of Professor Cranor's key accomplishments?
6. What inspired you most about Professor Cranor's story?
7. Professor Cranor says: *"I've always thought of myself as an interdisciplinary person. It's a great career path for people who have many interests."* What does she mean by this? What subjects would you like to combine that highlight your many interests?

## EXPLORE

1. To pursue a career as an Online Security Expert, what college majors should you consider?
2. What colleges and universities have programs in these areas?
3. What companies hire Online Security Experts? What is the salary range?
4. Name at least two other women Online Security Experts. How are they similar to Professor Cranor? How are they different?
5. What professional organizations support women in Online Security? Do they have conferences, lectures, or mentorship programs available for middle and high school students?

## REFLECT

Professor Cranor admits to sometimes being at meetings and having to speak up extra loud to be heard. She has to advocate for herself in such situations. What can you do to be your own advocate? To speak up when it matters and ensure that your voice is heard?

## ACT

It's time to step outside your comfort zone. Name one concrete thing you will do before your next meeting that will have you one step closer to becoming a STEM Gem. Blog about it. Include it in your written or photo journal. Hold yourself accountable.

***Work hard. Be brave. Stay curious.***

**BE A GEM!**

*Stephanie Espy*

P.S. I'd love to hear about your journey. Share on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram and tag @STEMGemsBook #STEMGemsTribe, or email me at [tribe@STEMGemsBook.com](mailto:tribe@STEMGemsBook.com).