

EMILY JAO

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EDUCATION

Pennsylvania State University, College of IST B.S., Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations, Minor in Information Sciences & Technology	University Park, PA <i>Class of May 2027</i>
Relevant Coursework: Object-Oriented Design and Software Applications, Malware Analytics, Cyber Forensics, Cyber-Defense Studio, Programming for the Web, Info Security Management, Networking and Telecommunication	GPA: 3.60

International Studies Institute

- Coursework: HIST 360: History & Culture of Italian Food

Florence, Italy
May – June 2024

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

Certification: CompTIA Security+

Languages: Python, Java, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, SQL, MongoDB, R

Tools: SIEM, Linux (Ubuntu), OSForensics, FTK Imager, Autopsy, Ghidra, HxD, Wireshark, ServiceNow, Salesforce, Power BI

Security Skills: Incident Response, Threat Analysis, Vulnerability Assessment, Network Security, SOC Operations, Risk Assessment

PROJECT WORK EXPERIENCE

Active Directory Security Lab (GOAD), Researcher	Jan 2026 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Built and analyzed a 15+ machine AD lab to identify access control weaknesses and misconfigurations.Executed offensive and defensive exercises, recommending improved monitoring and logging strategies.	
SSH Honeypot Deployment, Cybersecurity Project Lead	Dec 2025 – Jan 2026

SSH Honeypot Deployment, Cybersecurity Project Lead

- Deployed Dockerized Cowrie SSH honeypot, capturing 10s of unauthorized login attempts to analyze attacker behavior.
- Conducted Nmap scanning and brute-force testing to strengthen detection rules and TTP awareness.

Binary Reverse Engineering & Password Recovery, Security Analyst

- Performed static and memory analysis using Ghidra and Autopsy on 100+ lines of code, mapping password validation logic.
- Documented authentication mechanisms, improving understanding of binary security vulnerabilities.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Penn State Stuckeman School	University Park, PA
<i>Office of Technology Assistant</i>	<i>Jan 2026 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided frontline technical support for 15+ daily technical issues for 80 faculty and students, improving workflow efficiency.	
Siemens K.K.	Tokyo, Japan
<i>Data Analyst Intern</i>	<i>May – Aug 2025</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cleaned and de-duplicated 10,000+ Salesforce records using Snowflake, improving data quality for 60+ internal users.Supported OT cybersecurity initiatives and IEC 62443 compliance assessments, contributing to enterprise risk scoring.	
Penn State IT Desk	University Park, PA
<i>IT Consultant</i>	<i>Oct 2023 – Dec 2024</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Delivered Tier 1 technical support for 100+ students and faculty, resolving OS, network, MFA, and endpoint issues.Logged and tracked incidents in ServiceNow to maintain service continuity for 45K+ users across infrastructure.	

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Engineering Consulting Collaborative (E-CC)	University Park, PA
<i>Case Competition Director</i>	<i>Jan 2026 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Mentored and led 10 students in Deloitte and case competitions, teaching structured problem-solving and consulting skills.	
IST Career Development Organization (ICDO)	University Park, PA
<i>President</i>	<i>Feb 2025 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased membership by 200% through structured recruitment and industry-partner events.Organized career fairs connecting 20+ students with professional development resources.	
Competitive Cybersecurity Organization (CCSO)	University Park, PA
<i>Purple Team Member</i>	<i>Oct 2024 – Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Secured 5+ Windows/Linux servers and remediated vulnerabilities across 10+ shared resources in purple team simulations.	

COMPETITIONS, AWARDS & LANGUAGES

Competition: Nittany AI Shark Tank – 1st Place, Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition – Alternate

Awards: Student Leader Scholarship, Omicron Sigma Sigma National Honor Society, Microsoft Cybersecurity Scholarship Program

Language: Fluent Japanese, Intermediate Mandarin