

# BANING PHILIP AMPONSAH

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## EDUCATION

**Grambling State University** – Grambling, Louisiana, USA Expected Graduation: May 2028  
Bachelors of Science in Cybersecurity & Computer Science | **4.0/4.0** GPA  
**Relevant Coursework:** CBS 115 (Intro to Cybersecurity), CS 110, CS 120, CBS 255 (Information Security).

## SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS

- Skills:** Risk Assessment, Penetration Testing, Digital Forensics, Malware Analysis, SIEM Management, Threat Modelling
- Languages:** **Proficient:** Python (3 yrs) | C++ (2 yrs) **Intermediate:** Bash (2 yrs) | SQL (1 yr) | PowerShell (1yr) |
- Frameworks:** STRIDE, NIST CSF, MITRE ATT&CK, PCI-DSS
- Tools:** Splunk, Metasploit, Wireshark, Nmap, BurpSuite, Autopsy, Suricata, Nessus, Snort, OpenVAS, OWASP ZAP
- Certifications:** CAP, CNSP, ISC<sup>2</sup> CC, Google CSP

## EXPERIENCE

- Cybersecurity Job Simulation** Oct 2024 - Jan 2025  
Forage **Remote**
- Enhanced practical cybersecurity skills through the completion of virtual experience programs with PwC, ANZ, JPMorgan Chase, Telstra, and Mastercard.
  - Leveraged machine learning algorithms to improve fraud detection, reducing the risk of financial vulnerabilities by **87%**.
  - Implemented threat modeling strategies to address potential cyber threats, ensuring timely containment and mitigation of risks.
  - Audited GRC frameworks by conducting comprehensive risk assessments, ensuring compliance with NIST CSF standards.
- Digital Forensics Intern** June 2024 - Sep 2024  
CFSS Cyber & Forensics Solutions **Remote**
- Led **6+** digital forensics investigations, analyzing **500+** GB of evidence, supporting **10+** cyber-crime cases.
  - Collected digital evidence securely, maintaining integrity and chain of custody for accurate analysis and legal use.
  - Tracked **70+** cyber threats via network log and artifact analysis, providing critical support to investigations.
  - Refined and deployed RSA key pair generation and encryption protocols, ensuring improved data integrity.
- Cybersecurity Engineer Intern** Jul 2023 – Nov 2023  
Ideation Axis **Accra, Ghana**
- Collaborated with a 5-member team to conduct risk assessment and pen testing, exploiting flaws to enhance system security.
  - Analyzed **10+** GB network logs with Wireshark, identifying **250+** critical anomalies for security improvements.
  - Monitored network traffic with Splunk, creating queries and alerts to track and respond to security incidents.
  - Refined YARA rules for IDS systems to enhance threat detection and response accuracy.

## PROJECTS

- WIZARD** | Personal Project (~79 hours) | [Github Repo](#) Oct 2024 – Dec 2024
- Developed a Python-based USB drive sanitization program utilizing the Gutmann algorithm with three-pass randomization techniques to securely overwrite sensitive data, ensuring it is unrecoverable.
  - Utilized OS-level syscalls to facilitate direct interaction with hardware components, ensuring efficient execution of low-level operations for secure data wiping and sanitization.
- Reverse Shell Payload Generator** | Personal Project (~67 hours) | [Github Repo](#) Oct 2024 – Dec 2024
- Developed and obfuscated PowerShell reverse shell payloads, enhancing stealth and evasion with custom error messages and IP address encoding, ensuring successful exploitation in penetration testing.
  - Automated payload delivery and execution using a batch file, enabling reverse shell connections on port 443, effectively bypassing antivirus and EDR's detection.
- SSH Honeypot** | Personal Project (~60 hours) | [Github Repo](#) Aug 2024 – Oct 2024
- Developed and deployed honeypot on Hostinger to capture unauthorized login attempts and attacker credentials for threat intelligence.
  - Enhanced security monitoring with advanced IP filtering, traffic redirection, and customized prompts, leveraging Hostinger's cloud infrastructure for scalable and reliable data collection.
- Malware Analysis** | Team Project (~45 hours) Apr 2024 – Jun 2024
- Analyzed Zeus Trojan malware samples using static and dynamic analysis to identify propagation and data exfiltration methods.
  - Documented IOCs and behavioral patterns to enhance threat intelligence while refining YARA rules for Zeus variants, increasing detection accuracy and reducing false positives.
- Digital Forensic Case Study Project** | Team Project (~40 hours) | [Project Report](#) Aug 2024 – Sep 2024
- Collaborated with a three-member team to extract and analyze digital evidence, and utilizing Wireshark to analyze network traffic for identifying data exfiltration pathways.
  - Documented findings with detailed analysis and screenshots to illustrate data exfiltration evidence and support investigative conclusions.

## LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

- Lead Backend Engineer**, Notion Hackathon @ Grambling State University (**2nd Place Winner**)
- Collaborated with a team of six to develop RESTful APIs that enabled integration of AI models in *MissDiagnosis AI*, an AI-powered MedTech application designed to assist in diagnosing medical conditions, while optimizing database performance through efficient query design.
- Campus Ambassador**, HBCUniverse
- Serve as the primary liaison at Grambling State University, promoting HBCU-related events to over 1000 students and achieving a 25% increase in participation and a 30% rise in program sign-ups through strategic outreach.