

# Kayvon Karimi

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## Professional Statement

Detail-oriented Cybersecurity professional pursuing a Master's in Cybersecurity Engineering with a foundation in penetration testing, network defense, and digital forensics. Skilled in network security, vulnerability assessment, security operations, and risk management. Completed a Cyber Security Pre-Apprenticeship program, further strengthening expertise in SIEM tools, cloud security, and governance frameworks. Passionate about securing systems, protecting sensitive data, and contributing to resilient cybersecurity teams.

## Skills

- **Technical Skills:** Network Exploitation, Web Application Testing, Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Digital Forensics, Incident Detection & Response, Packet Analysis & Traffic Decryption, Malware Investigation, Cloud Security Configuration, VPN & Firewall Management, Bash & Python Scripting, Linux & Windows Administration, Security Monitoring & Log Analysis, Authentication & Cryptographic Protocols, CTF Problem Solving, TLS Key Logging, Security Automation & Scripting, Proxy Server Configuration, VPN Deployment, Privilege Escalation
- **Offensive Security Tools:** Wireshark, Nessus, Nmap, OpenVAS, SQLmap, MySQL, Burp Suite, Metasploit, FFUF, Gobuster, Nikto, John the Ripper, Hashcat, aircrack-ng, airmon-ng, WebGoat, Selenium, Hydra
- **Defensive Security & Monitoring Tools:** Wazuh, Splunk, Snort, Security Onion, tcpdump, PowerShell, CMD, Autopsy, Volatility, Regripper, FTK Imager
- **Cloud & Virtualization Tools:** AWS (EC2, S3, IAM, Security Groups), Azure Basics, Docker on AWS, Kubernetes, VirtualBox, Pi-hole, WireGuard, Tailscale
- **Cryptographic & Web Security Tools:** OpenSSL, PuTTYgen, TLS Key Logging, Apache2 HTTPS, Certificate Authority, PKI, Diffie-Hellman, X.509 Chain Validation
- **Systems & Admin Tools:** Linux (Debian/Ubuntu), Windows Server, Active Directory, Group Policy Management, RDP, Local Security Policy, WordPress Hardening, C Panel, bash scripting, iptables
- **Frameworks & Compliance:** Frameworks & Compliance, NIST 800-53, MITRE ATT&CK, OWASP Top 10, CVE/CVSS Scoring, CIS Benchmarks, DISA STIFs, SOC 2, ISO 27001

## Education

### University of San Diego

Master of Science, Cybersecurity Engineering (GPA: 4.00)

- **Achievements:** The Cybersecurity Student Club

May 2026

San Diego, CA

### Texas A&M University

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology, Minor in Business Administration (GPA: 3.4)

- **Achievements:** Men's D1 Tennis Team

May 2012

College Station, TX

## Certifications & Training

- **Cyber Proud: Cybersecurity Pre-Apprenticeship Program:** May 2025
  - \*Completed cybersecurity training in computer fundamentals, cryptography, cloud security, focused on security operations and vulnerability management.
  - \*Gained hands-on experience with Windows/Linux, Active Directory, PowerShell, AWS, Docker, and Kubernetes.
  - \*Developed practical skills in penetration testing, vulnerability assessments, network exploitation, SIEM tools, and IDS/IPS.
  - \*Proficient in securing sensitive data, configuring proxy servers, and managing firewalls and VPNs.
- **CompTIA Security+:** December 2025  
Scheduled
- **Google: Foundations of Cybersecurity:** August 2023
- **Harvard: VPAL Cybersecurity - Managing Risk in the Information Age:** July 2023

## Cyber Security Projects

### Internal Penetration Test | Active Directory & Network Exploitation | [Report](#)

Sep 2025 - Oct 2025

Design World

- Conducted a full-scope internal penetration test simulating adversarial techniques against Active Directory and enterprise hosts within a segmented test network.
- Exploited critical Microsoft SMBv1 vulnerabilities (MS17-010/EternalBlue) to demonstrate potential for remote code execution and lateral movement to sensitive assets.
- Discovered deprecated and weak SSL/TLS cipher suites (SWEET32, RC4), highlighting risks to encrypted data confidentiality and recommending cryptographic hardening.

### Internal Web Application Vulnerability Assessment | eCommerce Platform | [Report](#)

Jul 2024 - Aug 2025

Court Crate

- Performed network reconnaissance and service enumeration using Nmap (SYN stealth scans, service version detection) and Tenable Nessus Essentials, identifying 26 distinct vulnerabilities across 4 severity tiers (0 critical, 2 medium).
- Identified medium-severity clickjacking vulnerability (missing X-Frame-Options and Content-Security-Policy headers) and WordPress user enumeration via ?author= parameter; provided Apache/PHP hardening configurations for remediation.
- Mapped discovered vulnerabilities to OWASP Top 10 categories and provided risk ratings based on CVSS, supporting executive and developer-friendly remediation reporting.

### **VPN Client Monitoring with Wazuh SIEM | AWS Cloud Deployment | [Report](#)**

**Jun 2024 - Jul 2025**

*University of San Diego*

- Provisioned and configured AWS EC2 instance to deploy a secure, cloud-based VPN infrastructure using Pi-hole for DNS-level ad/tracker blocking and PiVPN (WireGuard) for encrypted remote access.
- Integrated Wazuh SIEM/XDR to enable centralized log aggregation, correlation rules, and alerting mechanisms for VPN client activity.
- Implemented real-time threat detection for suspicious VPN client behavior, login anomalies, and geolocation-based access control violations.

### **Wireless Traffic Capture & WPA2 Cracking | Capstone Project | [YouTube](#)**

**Feb 2025 - Apr 2025**

*Cyber Proud*

- Captured and decrypted over 5,000 WPA2-encrypted 802.11 frames using a Wi-Fi adapter in monitor mode and \*\*, simulating a rogue wireless attacker.
- Executed dictionary-based WPA2 handshake cracking with and , demonstrating vulnerabilities in weak wireless passphrases.
- Used Wireshark to decrypt and analyze wireless traffic, revealing protocol metadata (DNS, TLS, ARP, SSDP, LLMNR) and endpoint behavior.

### **Kali Linux GRUB Menu Login Bypass | Cracking a Kali Linux User | [YouTube](#)**

**Jan 2025 - Feb 2025**

*Independent Project*

- Demonstrated local privilege escalation by bypassing GRUB authentication and modifying kernel boot parameters to gain root shell access.
- Analyzed the boot process, GRUB configuration, and Linux runlevels to enable unauthorized access without credentials.
- Documented steps for secure GRUB hardening, including password protection, ' encryption, and BIOS/UEFI lockout strategies.

### **Forensic Investigation | System Artifact Analysis with Autopsy | [Report](#)**

**Nov 2024 - Dec 2024**

*Independent Project*

- Processed and parsed 300+ Windows registry artifacts (NTUSER.DAT, OpenSaveMRU, MUICache, UserAssist) to reconstruct user activity timelines and detect anomalous behavior.
- Employed Autopsy, RegRipper, and manual registry inspection to perform layered forensic analysis, event correlation, and artifact extraction.
- Conducted timeline analysis and event chain reconstruction to piece together escalation paths and identify points of persistence.

## **Work Experience**

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### **Court Crate | *Project Manager - (Present)***

**Oct 2019 - Present**

- Built and managed a secure e-commerce platform with WordPress hardening, user authentication, HTTPS/TLS, and uptime SLAs exceeding 99.9%.
- Implemented robust web application security controls, including SSL/TLS enforcement, plugin audits, and regular vulnerability patching to protect user data and maintain platform resilience.
- Oversaw end-to-end platform development lifecycle, coordinating with developers, content teams, and hosting providers to ensure system scalability, secure deployment, and continuous uptime.

### **Broadstone Sports Club | *Tennis Professional - (Part-Time)***

**May 2023 - Present**

- Mentor and coach players of all skill levels, building individualized development plans to foster growth, resilience, and strategic thinking.
- Cultivate strong communication skills by translating complex techniques into clear, actionable steps.

### **Golden Gate Realty | *Real Estate Agent***

**Jan 2020 - Nov 2022**

- Built trusted relationships with investors, utilizing strong analytical skills to identify high-value opportunities across the DFW metropolplex.
- Delivered \$10M in cumulative sales by leveraging strategic planning, attention to detail, and market analysis.

### **Tri-Force Marketing | *Web Developer***

**Feb 2015 - May 2021**

- Co-developed 100+ full-stack websites using HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript, PHP, and MySQL, with a focus on secure form handling, authentication logic, and server-side validation.
- Implemented input sanitization and parameterized queries to mitigate XSS, CSRF, and SQL Injection, aligning with early-stage OWASP Top 10 secure coding practices.
- Applied SSL/TLS configurations, basic access controls, and log analysis to identify anomalies, supporting more secure deployments and improved operational visibility.