

Donald (D.J.) Wheeler

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EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University

Bachelor of Science, Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations GPA: 3.84

University Park, PA

Expected December 2026

SKILLS

- Security & Network Defense: Incident Response, Threat Hunting, TCP/IP Model, VLANs, Firewalls, VPNs, AD, Wireshark, CIS Benchmark
- Programming & Scripting: Python, PowerShell, Bash, Java, SQL, HTML, JavaScript
- Certifications: CompTIA A+ (pursuing Security+)
- Tools & Platforms: Linux, Windows Server, Active Directory

WORK EXPERIENCE

Pennsylvania State University College of Information Sciences and Technology

Learning Assistant for Cyber Defense Studio Course

University Park, PA

August 2025–Present

- Explain information security and cybersecurity concepts to individual students. Assist students as they complete virtual labs in both Windows and Linux environments. Guide students towards CLI solutions in Bash and PowerShell.
- Grade assignments and quizzes according to rubrics and provide constructive feedback. Analyze trends in assignment submissions to provide the instructor with information to improve the course.
- Communicate professionally with instructing team and students to prepare for assignments and resolve course-related issues.

Excelligence Learning Corporation

Shelton, CT

Information Technology (IT) Support & Cybersecurity Intern

June 2024–August 2024

- Provided overall IT Support on-site and remote desktop support for company employees, resolving a wide range of issues relating to company technology, security, and compliance standards.
- Assessed Windows 11 enterprise systems against CIS Cybersecurity Benchmarks; identified vulnerabilities and provided remediation strategies to improve organizational network defense posture.
- Served as Active Directory (AD) administrator, responsible for IT onboarding processes for new hires and for offboarding of employees, per company Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Automated IT component of employee onboarding process using PowerShell, batch scripting and Windows Image deployment techniques.
- Used Microsoft Excel to compare enterprise application data against AD data and rectified any inconsistencies to restore defunct application infrastructure functions.

PROJECT WORK EXPERIENCE

Enterprise AI Integration Project, Researcher/Editor

March 2025–April 2025

- Conducted in-depth research on enterprise AI trends, evaluating real-world applications, organizational impact, and ROI to develop an implementation strategy.

Enterprise Network Design & Security Implementation, Network Engineer

April 2024

- Designed and documented wide-area network (WAN) spanning 19 retail locations, incorporating VLAN segmentation, Active Directory, VPNs, and next-generation firewalls to ensure PCI DSS compliance and robust site-to-site connectivity.

Database Design and Creation – “MountSQL Hospital” (Fictional Company), Database Engineer

April 2024

- Designed model of relational database using entity-relationship diagrams, outlining data requirements and normalizing data into tables. Implemented the database design using appropriate data types and constraints to ensure consistency and integrity.
- Developed optimized queries to test the integrity of the database and demonstrated the ability to efficiently extract statistics from the data.

AFFILIATIONS

Penn State Competitive Cyber Security Organization (CCSO), Active Member

January 2024–Present

- Participate in weekly labs on penetration testing, incident response, and ethical hacking platforms to strengthen red/blue team skills.