Daniel Garcia Mendez
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EDUCATION

University of Houston - Houston, Texas — Expected May 2027
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Minor: Management Information System

Cornell University — May - August 2025
Machine Learning Foundations e-Certificate (Break Through Tech)

Certifications:
CompTIA A+ | CompTIA Network+ (Expected Feb 2026) | CompTIA Security+ (Expected May 2026)

Relevant Coursework: Data Structures, Algorithms, Linear Algebra, Statistics, Database Systems, Computer Architecture

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SKILLS

Languages: Python, SQL, C++
Security & Networking: Linux (Ubuntu/Kali), Networking Fundamentals, Web Application Security (OWASP Top 10)
Security Tools: Burp Suite, Nmap, FFUF, OWASP ZAP, subfinder, OSINT tools
Security Learning Platforms: TryHackMe, picoCTF, Intigriti CTFs

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Break Through Tech - ML Fellowship | [Github](#) — **May 2025 - Present**
Cornell University — Remote
- Selected for a competitive Cornell-led fellowship in machine learning and ethical AI; completed and continued applying an intensive curriculum focused on Python, TensorFlow, and NLP.
- Collaborated with a small startup team (Root Remedy) to design and develop an AI-powered chatbot that provides health-related recommendations based on user inputs, supporting model logic and responsible data use.

IT Support / Operations Assistant — **March 2023 – Present**
Cactus Food — Houston, Texas
- Provided Tier-1 IT support for POS systems, payment terminals, and network-connected devices in a live business environment.
- Troubleshoot hardware, software, and connectivity issues to minimize downtime and ensure transaction reliability.
- Installed, configured, updated, and troubleshoot Windows-based workstations, POS systems, printers, and network-connected devices; documented issues and resolutions for tracking and escalation.

Ignite Fellowship - Mathematics Tutor — **October 2024 – Present**
Teach For America — Remote
- Designed and delivered math lessons for 10 middle school students, resulting in 2-3x higher than expected growth on the NWEA MAP assessment
- Coordinated with classroom teachers across CA, NJ, TX, and SC to align weekly objectives and adapt sessions to student need

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PROJECTS

Packet Sniffer & Network Analysis Tool | [Github](#) — **January 2026 - Present**
- Developing a packet sniffer to capture and analyze network traffic, focusing on TCP/IP, DNS, HTTP/S, and ARP protocols.
- Parsing packet headers to understand source/destination addressing, ports, and protocol behavior across OSI layers.
- Documenting findings and implementation details to reinforce networking and security fundamentals.

DataBeats - Full Stack Team Project | [Github](#) — **August 2025 - December 2025**
- Designed and implemented a relational MySQL schema for users, playlists, events, and roles; deployed on AWS RDS.
- Built RESTful APIs using C# / ASP.NET for authentication, playlist management, and event workflows.
- Developed a React frontend with dynamic routing, search, and role-based authorization.
- Implemented secure session handling and input validation to reduce common web application vulnerabilities.

CYBERSECURITY EXPERIENCE

The Entomologist – Bug Bounty & CTF Researcher — **May 2024 - Present**
- Conducted hands-on web application security testing through public bug bounty programs and CTF platforms including TryHackMe, picoCTF, and Intigriti, building strong fundamentals in networking, web security, and cryptography.
- Performed reconnaissance and surface enumeration using OSINT techniques, subdomain discovery, and manual analysis.
- Utilized Burp Suite, Nmap, and FFUF to identify, validate, and understand common web application vulnerabilities.
- Documented findings with clear reproduction steps, impact assessment, and remediation context following responsible disclosure practices.