

## The "Cybersecurity" Specialization

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# Hi from North Easton,MA,USA

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Hi, my name is Karen West, and I live in a small town called North Easton, Massachusetts, USA, about 30 miles south of Boston, and 30 miles north of Providence,RI. I am married to a nutty computer science professor originally from Derby, England, and I am originally from Albany,NY. We have an 11 year old son in 6th grade and a 9 year old daughter in 3rd grade. I am currently home in a period of learning while job searching and have been in this phase for longer than I wanted to be but have learned many new things I otherwise would not have had time to learn. Last semester I took the software security course on Coursera and the Univ. of Maryland with Mike Hicks, so when I saw this hardware security course offered as part of their cyber security series, I decided to take this one too. All of my professional positions have been in embedded systems programming in mostly C and also test (18 years!) My BS and MS are Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. During the past 5 years, 5 months, and so far 20 days at home (not that I'm counting! ;-)), I've taken many free online courses to expand both my technical skills and humanities (economics, human rights law type) while job searching but so far I find myself still in this period of taking online courses to find my path back to the working world again. This is what I've been doing while at home the past 5+ years:

- **Business Economics, Entrepreneurs & Human Rights Law Humanities:** Diverse interests outside high tech too.
- **Technical Skill Projects In:**

- **C Project:** Implemented a basic shell called "myshell", to learn how a command interpreter works.
- **Python:** In this class, we designed Python code to all different types of algorithms for solving problems.
- **Android Applications:** We used XML, Java and Android to create applications for Android based devices emulated as Virtual Machines on Eclipse, with either an ARM or Intel microprocessor emulated device.
- **Network Protocols:** Reviewed all network protocols from a conceptual level.
- **Databases:** introduced the various database technologies.
- **Systems View of Communications From Signals To Packets Using MATLAB-took Part 1:** tradeoffs encountered in the design of 1 transmitter, 1 receiver systems, a point-to-point link.
- **GPS, Google Maps and Spatial Computing:** conceptual level class - introduced the fundamental ideas underlying spatial computing services, systems, and sciences.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Python used on a Pacmac game to learn AI algorithms.
- **Ruby on Rails:** deployed simple Ruby on Rails application on Heroku, introduced Agile Web Application Development, Used Git and GitHub for Code Management.
- **Embedded Systems: Outside my 18 years of work experience in this area, the online course covered:** hand held video game, ADC, DAC, UARTs, Finite State Machine Design, Switches, LEDs, Functional Debugging
- **Software Security** – buffer overflows, breaking web sites, tools to detect issues.
- **In Progress But Not Completed Yet, Online Courses:** Fundamentals of Data Analysis Using R, Hardware Security, Technical Entrepreneur, EU Business Law, *(and work at your own pace type skills and projects):* Intro. to CS (Topics include abstraction, algorithms, data structures, encapsulation, resource management, security, software engineering, and web development. Languages include C, PHP, and JavaScript plus SQL, CSS, and HTML) and OS.

So I look forward to completing this next cyber-security course from the Univ. of Maryland and Coursera to complement the software security course I took last semester. Thanks and nice to meet you all! Good luck to everyone.

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