

# Youssef Awad — Cybersecurity Engineer & Entrepreneur

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## Summary

OSCP-certified cybersecurity professional with 8+ years in offensive security, DevOps, and software development. Co-founded CTFae, winning “Best Emirati Startup” at GISEC 2024 and achieving a **Guinness World Record** for the world’s largest CTF. Built platforms serving BlackHat, DEFCON, HITB, and government agencies worldwide.

## Experience

- CTFae** Dubai, UAE
- Head of Engineering & Co-Founder 2021 – Present
- Architected CTF platform serving 10,000+ concurrent participants; achieved **Guinness World Record** (BlackHat MEA 2024)
  - Led engineering for BlackHat MEA, DEFCON 33, GITEX, HITB, Dubai Police, and national CTFs (UAE, Bahrain, Saudi)
  - Designed Cyber Drill attack-defense simulations; automated infrastructure with Terraform, Ansible, AWS/GCP
- Malcrove** Dubai, UAE
- Senior Cyber Security Consultant 2022 – Dec 2025
- Conducted penetration testing for web/mobile apps, networks, and wireless systems across UAE and international clients
  - Authored vulnerability reports with remediation guidance for technical and executive stakeholders
- GDI.Foundation** Netherlands (Remote)
- Volunteer Ethical Hacker 2019 – 2024
- Responsibly disclosed critical vulnerabilities to governments and organizations; collaborated on internet-wide research

## Skills

**Security:** Penetration Testing, Red Teaming, CTF Development (Web/Pwn/OSINT), Vulnerability Assessment  
**Languages:** Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Bash, SQL  
**DevOps:** Docker, Terraform, Ansible, Packer, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, AWS, GCP  
**Stack:** Django, FastAPI, Flask, Express, Celery, PostgreSQL, Redis, RabbitMQ, Nginx, Linux

## Education & Certifications

- American University of Sharjah** UAE
- B.Sc. Computer Engineering (Minor: CS) 2017 – 2022
- OSCP:** Offensive Security Certified Professional – Passed with 90/100

## Awards

- 2024: **Guinness World Record** – Largest CTF in the world (BlackHat MEA)  
2025: **Best Community Engagement** – UAE CyberSecurity Awards  
2024: **Best Emirati Startup** – GISEC UAE  
2021: **Outstanding CSE Student Talent Award** – American University of Sharjah  
CTFs: 12+ first-place wins: CyberBattle of Emirates, Dubai Police CTF, CyberTalents UAE, HITB Lockdown, CyberQuest