

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
<i>Head of Engineering & Co-Founder</i>	<i>2021 – Present</i>
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	
Malcove	Dubai, UAE
<i>Senior Cyber Security Consultant</i>	<i>2022 – Dec 2025</i>
○ 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)
<i>Volunteer Ethical Hacker</i>	<i>2019 – 2024</i>
○ Responsible for disclosing 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
<i>B.Sc Computer Engineering (Minor: CS)</i>	<i>2017 – 2022</i>

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