Youssef Awad

youssef@ctf.ae | +971 50 739 9908 | UAE (GMT+4) | linkedin.com/in/youssef-awad | github.com/DeadPackets

Summary

OSCP-certified cybersecurity engineer with 8+ years in offensive security, DevOps, and platform engineering. Co-founded CTFae, achieving a Guinness World Record for the world's largest CTF and winning Best Emirati Startup at GISEC 2024. Architected infrastructure serving 10,000+ concurrent users for BlackHat, DEFCON, HITB, and government agencies.

Professional Experience

Head of Engineering & Co-Founder | CTFae – Dubai, UAE   2021 – Present
- Architected Challenge Deployment API (Python/FastAPI) for on-demand provisioning of containerized challenges to AWS ECS with auto-scaling, serving 10,000+ concurrent participants at BlackHat MEA (Guinness World Record 2024).
- Built CyberRanges IaC platform using Terraform, Packer, and Ansible for automated provisioning of multi-VM attack-defense environments across AWS and GCP.
- Developed Attack-Defense checksystem with Python/Celery workers, PostgreSQL (PgCat pooling), and Redis for real-time scoring of 100+ teams simultaneously.
- Created CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions for challenge validation, Docker builds, and AWS ECR/ECS deployment with OIDC authentication.
- Led engineering for DEFCON 33 Bug Bounty CTF, GITEX Dubai, Bahrain National CTF, BSides Nashville, HITB, and Dubai Police CTF.

Senior Cyber Security Consultant | Malcrove – Dubai, UAE   2022 – Dec 2025
- Conducted penetration testing for web/mobile apps, networks, and wireless systems for clients across UAE, Saudi Arabia, and international markets.
- Authored vulnerability reports with CVSS scoring, PoC exploits, and remediation guidance for technical and executive stakeholders.

Volunteer Ethical Hacker | GDI.Foundation – Netherlands (Remote)   2019 – 2024
- Responsibly disclosed critical vulnerabilities to governments and organizations as part of internet-wide vulnerability research.

Technical Skills

Security: Penetration Testing, Red Teaming, Web/Network Security, Vulnerability Assessment, CTF Development
Languages: Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Bash, SQL, Go
Cloud/DevOps: Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, Ansible, Packer, GitHub Actions, AWS (ECS, ECR, S3, IAM), GCP
Backend: FastAPI, Django, Flask, Express, Celery, PostgreSQL, Redis, RabbitMQ, Nginx, Linux

Education & Certifications

B.Sc. Computer Engineering (Minor: Computer Science) – American University of Sharjah, UAE   2017 – 2022
OSCP – Offensive Security Certified Professional (Score: 90/100)

Awards

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