Youssef Awad

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SUMMARY

OSCP-certified cybersecurity professional with 8+ years in offensive security, DevOps, and software development. Co-founder of **CTFae**, winner of **"Best Emirati Startup"** at GISEC 2024 and **Guinness World Record** holder for the world's largest CTF. Architected and scaled cybersecurity 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, and GCP.

Malcrove   **Dubai, UAE**
Senior Cyber Security Consultant   *2022 – Dec 2025*

- Conducted penetration testing for web/mobile apps, networks, and wireless systems for UAE and international clients.
- Authored detailed 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.

TECHNICAL 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: Computer Science)   *2017 – 2022*
OSCP - Offensive Security Certified Professional (Passed with 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 Talent Award (2021):** American University of Sharjah.
- **CTF Wins:** 12+ first-place wins (CyberBattle of Emirates, Dubai Police CTF, CyberTalents UAE, HITB, CyberQuest).

NOTABLE EVENTS HOSTED

DEFCON 33 Bug Bounty CTF (2025), BlackHat MEA CTF (2022–2024), Dubai Cyber Security Challenge @ GITEX (2024–2025), Bahrain National CTF (2025), BSides Nashville (2024–2025), HITB Amsterdam & Dubai, Dubai Police CTF, AtHack Saudi Arabia.