

Aaron Sierra

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Career Profile

Resourceful and committed Computer Science student specializing in Cybersecurity, with a passion for solving complex problems and competing in tech challenges. Known for intelligence, innovation, and a unique approach, excelling in analysis, autonomy, and flexible thinking. Demonstrates strong ownership of tasks, inclusive teamwork skills, and the ability to work independently. Strong communication skills enable clear technical insights, in preparation to tackle real-world cybersecurity challenges effectively. Passionately pursuing growth and learning new skills in the field of AI.

Programming Languages: C, C++, C#, Python, Go, Java, JavaScript, HTML, PHP, x86 Assembly, Bash, PowerShell

Proprietary Software: Ghidra, BinaryNinja, Azure 365 Defender, Microsoft Sentinel, Splunk, Wazuh, Suricata

EDUCATION

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY- Waco, TX

May 2025

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science | Concentration in Cybersecurity

Certifications

- CompTIA Security +
- CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker) - *In Progress*

EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Cybersecurity Research Assistant – Waco, TX

August 2024 – Present

Baylor University

- Conducted an official penetration test on Baylor Cybersecurity Range leveraging Nmap to pinpoint potential footholds and pivot points and compiled a comprehensive Rules of Engagement (RoE) and post-mortem.
- Created Security Auditing and Penetration Testing (CYB 4387) syllabus for Baylor's Cybersecurity Major, aligning with Bloom's Taxonomy and utilizing textbooks such as CompTIA Pentest+ and CEH.

Software Engineer - Intern – Austin, TX

May 2024 – August 2024

General Motors | Fortune 50 Company

- Represented and supervised team Sandilya as lead developer to create a secure online appointment tool in C#.
- Investigated and reduced over 10,000 lines of code while updating project to a .NET framework to operate across multiple platforms such as Windows, Mac, IOS, and Android.

Information Security Analyst - Intern – Austin, TX

May 2023 – August 2023

General Motors | Fortune 50 Company

- Utilized advanced KQL queries in Microsoft Azure Sentinel to streamline threat detection workflows, reducing the detection team's daily alert analysis time by 50% and significantly enhancing overall cybersecurity posture.
- Resolved 15+ of the 40 weekly security alerts by leveraging advanced Azure cloud expertise and 365 Defender capabilities, significantly strengthening my overall threat mitigation capabilities.
- Completed 5+ advanced Microsoft Azure cloud training modules as a Security Analyst, significantly strengthening my cloud security alert comprehension and reducing incident investigation times by 30%.

CCDC (Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition) – Tulsa, OK

December 2022 - May 2024

2x Regionals Qualifier

- Managed onboarding/offboarding for 100+ users on OpenLDAP (using LDIF and Bash) and Active Directory (with PowerShell); applied ACL changes, changed passwords, backed up critical registry keys, configured firewall rules.
- Fortified systems by deploying and configuring Wazuh IDS/NIDS and Iptables/Windows Defender firewalls, reducing unauthorized access attempts by 90%.
- Led comprehensive network enumeration efforts by identifying running services, versions, and listening ports using advanced Nmap scans and custom Bash/PowerShell scripts, significantly improving infrastructure visibility.

NCL (National Cyber League) – Waco, TX

March 2022 - May 2024

4x NCL Competitor

- Ranked 395th out of 7879 competitors in Fall 2023 | 95th percentile
- Reverse Engineered Polymorphic malware consisting of 100,000+ lines of x86 Assembly code using Ghidra.
- Created 4+ specialized log parsers in C++ and Python to rapidly address error log inquiries, cutting troubleshooting time by 80% and significantly enhancing system reliability.