
GAGE AYALA

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity Specialist with hands-on experience in web, host, and network penetration testing. Adept at leveraging tools to manually assess environments while adhering to legal and ethical standards within the scope of the engagement. Known for team leadership, effective collaboration, and precise reporting that bridges technical findings with executive priorities. Skilled in delivering remediation suggestions in regards to the Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability Triad.

CERTIFICATIONS

- CompTia Pentest+ (PT0-003) - Sept. 2025
- Jr. Penetration Tester Certification (THM) - Dec. 2024
- OSCP+ - In Progress
- HTB CPTS - In Progress

SKILLS

- **Web Application Testing:** Burp Suite, OWASP ZAP, SQLmap, wfuzz, gobuster/dirbuster, nikto, ffuf, WPScan, postman API testing, manual injection & fuzzing techniques
- **Host & Active Directory Exploitation:** Mimikatz, Sysinternals Suite, Evil-WinRM, WinPEAS/LinPEAS, Empire, psexec, privilege escalation playbooks (Windows & Linux)
- **Programming & Automation:** Python (scripting exploits, automation), PowerShell, Bash, API integrations, Recon-ng, Maltego
- **Network & Infrastructure Testing:** Nmap, Netcat, Metasploit Framework, CrackMapExec, Hydra/Medusa, Responder, Impacket toolkit, dig, enum4linux, smbclient, rpcclient, kerbrute, ldapsearch, BloodHound
- **Defensive & Monitoring (Blue Team Exposure):** Sysmon, Elastic SIEM, Wazuh, Graylog, log analysis, false positive triage, custom detection scripting (Python/PowerShell/Bash)
- **Professional Skills:** Technical Report Writing, Executive Summaries, Team Leadership, Cross-team Collaboration

WORK HISTORY

IT Specialist, 11/2025 - Current

HCL Tech – Austin, TX

- Support hospital IT environments across Central Texas by managing and troubleshooting critical infrastructure, end-user systems, and clinical technology devices
- Configure and maintain Active Directory policies, group permissions, and user access to ensure secure and reliable authentication
- Manage MAC address allow-lists and maintain VLAN functionality to ensure secure segmentation and stable network performance
- Install, configure, and support a wide range of hospital hardware and technology including desktops, laptops, scanners, label printers, networking equipment, and specialized medical devices
- Provide remote and onsite support for hospital staff, resolving application issues, login failures, network connectivity problems, and AD policy conflicts

- Ensure security, compliance, and operational continuity in a healthcare environment with high availability and reliability requirements
- Efficiently manage, prioritize, and resolve support requests through the ServiceNow ticketing system, ensuring timely issue resolution, clear documentation, and adherence to SLA requirements

Cybersecurity Analyst, 01/2025 - 01/2026

Transom Construction (contract) – Austin, TX

- Strengthened infrastructure by enforcing MFA, implementing data encryption, and aligning security controls with state and federal compliance requirements.
- Performed vulnerability assessments and penetration tests with OpenVAS, validating findings and coordinating remediation with stakeholders.
- Monitored logs and alerts with Wazuh and Graylog, developing custom scripts to reduce false positives and accelerate threat detection.
- Conducted ongoing threat analysis and researched emerging attack vectors to proactively improve defenses.
- Produced clear executive-level reports translating technical risks into business impact for leadership.
- Provided incident response support, triaged alerts, and delivered timely IT assistance during critical events.

Bartender, 09/2023 - 11/2024

Bjs Restaurants Inc – Round Rock, Texas

- Handled simultaneous customer, team, and business needs while avoiding unnecessary delays or errors.

IT Technician, 03/2021 - 05/2023

Self Employed Services – Austin, TX

- Performed custom PC builds, OS installations, and hardware/software troubleshooting for home users.
- Installed and configured custom hardware and software including firewalls, routers, VPNs, switches, VLANs, and Wireless APs.
- Educated clients on best security practices using effective communication to non-technical clients.

EDUCATION

Associate of Applied Science: LAN Systems-Cyber Security Specialist, 08/2025

Austin Community College - Austin, TX

Associate of Applied Science: Computer Programming, 08/2025

Austin Community College - Austin, TX

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **President, CyberSec Club & Captain, CTF Team (ACC):** Mentored students in cybersecurity, organized capture-the-flag (CTF) events, and collaborated with industry professionals.
- **CTF Development:** Designed and deployed a security-themed CTF with CTFd for a local hackathon; authored challenges and judged submissions.
- **Breach Response:** Investigated and remediated a company breach, preventing \$40,000+ in damages and reducing projected losses by over \$100,000.
- **Home Lab Architecture:** Built a segmented environment with OPNsense firewall, VLANs, Kali Linux, Protectli Vault, NordVPN, and much more to simulate red/blue team operations.
- **Top 1% TryHackMe Ranking:** Completed 300+ rooms covering web, host, and AD exploitation; earned 7 certifications and 50+ skill badges.
- **Reverse Engineering:** Analyzed and published a repair guide for the Nexigo NS32 controller on iFixit, demonstrating low-level hardware/software troubleshooting.