

My fascination with computers began in high school when I took a course on HTML and CSS. After graduating, I took a few years away from the keyboard and went into the trades until an injury changed the course of my career. At that point, with a lot of free time and overall unsurety of where I was going, I started getting back into technology to combat my boredom and decided after trying out different languages in free courses to enroll in a software development bootcamp. During that time, I worked solo and in groups for projects, but also took time to explain harder concepts to any of my classmates who reached out because they were struggling with what we'd learned that day. I've worked hard to learn C# and feel immense satisfaction at knowing my tutors, without prompting, have described me as proficient in it now, along with .NET Core/Framework. Through that curriculum, I also gained fluency with Git Version Control, SQL, and dealing with RESTful APIs.

Once I'd completed the bootcamp, I realized my curiosity had not been satisfied and took it upon myself to develop a basic understanding of Python along with entering another course, this time in cybersecurity, where I've increased my comfort level with Debian based Linux. I now understand the importance of environmental hardening, as it is ideal to keep unnecessary files, permissions, and ports inaccessible to prevent targetability; encryption, so you can increase the safety and security of the network; and basic vulnerability scanning to identify and correct any weak spots that would allow someone with malicious intent to exploit the system.

As I continue with my Cyber Security Professional Training, I found it surprising how many additional security measures the average person, even those who work in the realm of technology and IT, can be completely unaware of; for example, something as simple as having WPS activated on your router can very easily be exploited and cracked by using aireplay-ng to associate with the network and reaver to capture the pin. I would be so excited to work towards a goal of secured platforms and expanding my knowledge of security in software and networks.