KARIM BENKHIRA

Penetration Tester | Red Teamer

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Summary

Penetration Tester and **Red Team** Operator specializing in web application security, and cloud security across **AWS**, **Azure**, and **GCP**. Proven track record with multiple valid vulnerability reports submitted through **bug bounty programs** and 16+ advanced certifications completed (ACRTP, MCRTP, HTB Pro Labs). Currently selected as one of a limited number of researchers worldwide for **Meta's** WhatsApp Private Processing Security Research program. Experienced in identifying critical vulnerabilities, misconfigurations, and privilege escalation paths while delivering actionable remediation strategies to strengthen security postures.

Experience

WhatsApp Security Researcher   Jun 2025 - Present

Meta · Freelance

- Selected as one of a limited number of security researchers worldwide to participate in Meta's WhatsApp Private Processing Security Research program.

- Collaborate directly with Meta's security team via **Slack** to validate security architecture and identify potential vulnerabilities in system integrity.

Bug Bounty Hunter   January 2022 – Present

Bugcrowd – Remote

- Identify and report web application vulnerabilities across multiple bug bounty programs, focusing on critical issues such as XSS, IDOR, SSRF,SQLI, and authentication flaws.

- Leverage automated reconnaissance tools alongside manual testing methodologies to discover hidden endpoints, misconfigurations, and logic vulnerabilities in target applications.

- Develop custom proof-of-concept exploits to demonstrate the real-world impact of discovered vulnerabilities, helping organizations understand security risks.

Student Mentor   April 2025 – Present

Pwned Labs – Remote

- Mentor students via Discord and other platforms on red/blue teaming labs, including AWS, Azure, and GCP.

- Beta test upcoming labs and provide feedback to enhance lab quality and user experience.

- Granted full access to advanced and business-level labs as part of mentor responsibilities.

Intern Penetration Tester   May 2025 – July 2025

FasGo - Tangier, Morocco

- Conducted comprehensive manual penetration testing on web applications using Burp Suite to identify vulnerabilities including XSS, SQL injection, and authentication bypass issues.

- Performed detailed source code reviews of PHP and Laravel applications to uncover logic flaws, insecure data handling, and potential privilege escalation vulnerabilities.

- Collaborated with development teams to provide actionable remediation recommendations, resulting in the secure patching of identified security issues before production deployment.

- Documented findings in detailed security assessment reports, including risk ratings, proof-of-concept exploits, and step-by-step remediation guidance.

Additional Activities

CTF Player   January 2020 – Present

Hack The Box

Participate in Capture The Flag (CTF) competitions on Hack The Box to sharpen offensive security skills.

Certifications

ACRTP	2025	MCRTP	2024

Pwned Labs - AWS Certified Red Team Professional

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Pwned Labs – Azure Certified Red Team Professional

🔗 credly

ThunderDome	2025	Electra	2025

Pwned Labs - Red Team Multi-cloud

🔗 credly

Pwned Labs - Red Team Amazon Cloud

🔗 credly

DANTE	2024	OFFSHORE	2024

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-8E9E5C6B9F

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-AF5D07A5A0

CYBERNETICS	2024	APTLABS	2024

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-12F9CC9A12

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-6EC991FE5E

ZEPHYR	2024	RASTALABS	2024

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-2127D2522C

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-F3D43922D7

HADES	2024	RPG	2024

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-6D648B24F2

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-0B32DD6DEF

XEN	2024	FULLHOUSE	2024

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-32CE66909C

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-3FBA597B3A

P.O.O.	2024	SOLAR	2024

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-2B2F350646

Hack The Box – Red Team Operator

🔗 Credential ID HTBCERT-EA36C4A6BC

Technical Skills , Soft Skills

Penetration Testing:

Web Application Security, OWASP Top 10, Vulnerability Assessment, Code Review, Reverse Engineering, Privilege Escalation, Exploitation

Cloud Security:

AWS, Azure, GCP,Privilege Escalation

Programming & Scripting:

C++ , Java , PHP, Python (for security automation)

Operating Systems:

Linux (Kali, Parrot, Ubuntu), Windows

Soft Skills

Teamwork & Collaboration, Problem Solving, Continuous Learning, Adaptability

Education

YOUCODE-UM6P

AUG 2024 - PRESENT

Software Development Student

Allal El Fassi

GRADUATED IN 2020

Baccalaureate in Physical Sciences