

# Kofi Opoku

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## SUMMARY

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Enthusiastic and driven Information System Security Engineer with a proven track record of understanding and translating technical requirements such as Risk Management Framework (RMF), Security Assessment & Authorization, Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M) Management, mitigation of vulnerabilities in LAN/WAN systems, and security controls testing to improve accuracy and reliability. Highly skilled in vulnerability analysis, Monitoring, Detection, SIEM Reports, Firewall, Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS), and security controls testing. Researched and implemented budget-conscious security and encryption solutions, resulting in a 30% reduction in security incidents and enhanced user privacy across the network. Creates easy-to-follow guidelines and troubleshooting documentation for non-technical staff.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Vulnerability Analyst | Department of Defense | Annapolis, MD

07/2023 – Present

- Conduct in-depth zero-day vulnerability research and exploitation on enterprise products, utilizing reverse engineering, binary exploitation, and fuzzing techniques
- Analyze publicly disclosed vulnerabilities (N-day) to understand their impact and develop effective countermeasures
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to implement mitigation strategies based on identified vulnerabilities and conduct rigorous security assessments
- Ensure product security through proactive bug finding, including comprehensive code reviews and other relevant techniques

### Computer System Tutor | Howard Community College | Columbia, MD

09/2022 – 12/2023

- Facilitated interactive learning sessions to enhance students' proficiency in Python Programming, CompTIA Network+, and Security+ concepts, resulting in a 20% increase in students' average grades
- Developed standardized study materials for 4 different courses which improved retention of key concepts by 15%, measured by post-seminar concept tests
- Tailored tutoring style to individual student learning preferences using the VARK assessment, resulting in an 18% increase in students reporting a better understanding of topics

### Information System Security Engineer | Department of Defense | Annapolis, MD

04/2021 – 07/2023

- Lowered security risk ratings for 10 IT systems from high to medium risk level through implementing customized NIST 800-53 controls, as measured by pre- and post-assessment scores
- Identified and remediated 150 vulnerabilities across 45 systems through weekly Nessus scans over a 6-month period, decreasing the number of open vulnerabilities by 20% month over month
- Streamlined the audit log review process in Splunk for 10 systems, allowing the detection of 5 unauthorized access attempts within 3 days of occurrence compared to the previous 15-day average

### System Administrator | Intercontinental Export Import, Inc. | Columbia, MD

03/2019 - 04/2021

- Connected 4 offices across 100 miles into a single Active Directory domain, reducing duplicate user accounts by 65% and cutting monthly account management time by 75%
- Deployed an Ubuntu file server with NFS and Samba shares to enable file transfers between sites, replacing faxing and reducing transmission costs by 80%
- Configured a Site-to-Site VPN between offices using Cisco devices, allowing 50% of employees to transition to successfully working remotely while maintaining productivity

**Cyber Security Analyst | Encompass IT Security Solutions | Bowie, MD**

02/2018 - 03/2019

- Discovered 15 vulnerabilities per month on average by conducting vulnerability assessments with Nessus and NMAP on 5 clients' systems, helping to harden their defenses
- Analyzed 500 security events daily on average from a variety of network and endpoint devices using the ELK stack, lowering mean resolution time for high-priority issues from 3 hours to under 1 hour
- Investigated 300 emails, domains, and IPs per month involved in phishing or malware attempts using VirusTotal and Cuckoo Sandbox, recommending blocks that stopped an average of 50 attacks per client network
- Secured 5 WordPress websites with Sucuri and WordFence experiencing zero successful attacks over 6 months, 99% quicker patching times for critical vulnerabilities as compared to the industry average

**IT Support Specialist | University of Maryland Baltimore County | Baltimore, MD**

05/2015 - 12/2017

- Reduced annual help desk ticket volume by 1500 by creating a knowledgebase accessed over 2500 times per year
- Deployed 350 laptop and desktop systems per year, standardizing 90% of university workstations to improve support efficiency
- Provided personalized training to 250 faculty and staff, increasing their technical proficiency by 30% as measured by pre- and post-training assessments

**EDUCATION**

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**Master of Science, Cybersecurity**

Expected Graduation: 07/2024

University of Delaware, Newark, DE

**Bachelor of Science, Information System**

12/2017

University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD

**CERTIFICATION**

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- *Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)*
- *CompTIA Advanced Security Practitioner (CASP +) Certified CE*
- *eLearnSecurity Junior Penetration Tester*
- *CompTIA Security + Certified CE*
- *CompTIA Network + Certified CE*