KYSER J. CLARK – Penetration Tester

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Secret Security Clearance | Relocatable | United States Air Force Veteran

Career Summary

- Cybersecurity professional with 5+ years of enterprise experience specializing in offensive security, ethical hacking, penetration testing, and red teaming; skilled in vulnerability assessments and risk mitigation.
- Credentials include BS in Cybersecurity, 11 certifications (including OSCP, CISSP, eJPT, PenTest+, CEH, CySA+, CCNA, Cloud+, Linux+, Security+, and Network+), and high leaderboard rankings in capture the flags (CTFs).

Core Competencies & Skills

- Experienced in manual and automated network penetration testing and web application assessments.
- Proficient in red team engagements, threat actor emulation, and bypassing cybersecurity defenses.
- Exceptional with industry-standard tools and techniques (Kali Linux, Nmap, Burp Suite, Metasploit, Mimikatz).
- Clear and concise written and verbal communication skills for reporting actionable mitigation strategies.
- Versed in automation, programming, and scripting (Python, Bash, PowerShell, C, C#, VBA, PHP, JavaScript).
- Sharp at identifying and exploiting security vulnerabilities in Windows and Linux systems/servers.
- Strong knowledge of methodologies and frameworks (OWASP, PTES, MITRE ATT&CK, Cyber Kill Chain, NIST).
- Adept in exploit development, leveraging advanced techniques for employing chained/multi-staged attacks.

Professional Experience

Penetration Tester – Contract August 2023
TrustFoundry – United States (Remote)

- Led vulnerability assessment of Barracuda and Azure firewalls on a client's production network, identifying 34 vulnerabilities; devised and delivered strategies to enhance and secure network traffic.

Content Engineer – Freelance May 2023 – Present
Hack The Box – Folkestone, England, United Kingdom (Remote)

- Published author for three captivating and engaging blog articles, showcasing exceptional communication and marketing skills to effectively engage readers and drive meaningful traffic to the HTB website (more coming).

Cyber Defense Operations (1D771) – Active Duty April 2018 – Present
United States Air Force – Worldwide

- Led comprehensive vulnerability assessment, identifying and remedying 105 security vulnerabilities, reducing security risk by hardening a server supporting 1,500 Air Mobility missions.
- Managed and mitigated six classified message incidents, ensuring prompt sanitization of secret data leaks across 57 systems and contributing to the success of 15,600 Pacific Air Force missions.
- Orchestrated unit (organization) information technology (IT) asset program, meticulously inventorying and tracking 400 items valued at $600,000 across six facilities, ensuring optimal resource utilization and security.
- Acted as the primary administrator for the Global Air Transportation and Execution System (GATES), providing seamless support to 150 workstations and facilitating secure operations for 183 system users.
- Streamlined security operations by effectively coordinating workflow among seven work centers, resulting in the timely resolution of 5,000 trouble tickets within a two-year period.
- Ensured uninterrupted network connectivity for 8,000 network devices supporting 43 F-16 fighter aircraft, playing a pivotal role in bolstering North Korean nuclear deterrence efforts.

Education

Master of Science (MS) in Cybersecurity Management & Policy (WIP) (Projected) February 2025
University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)

Bachelor of Science (BS) in Cybersecurity Management & Policy August 2023
University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC)
Minor in Business Administration | 3.873 GPA | Honors: Cum Laude

Professional Certifications

OffSec Experienced Penetration Tester (OSEP) (WIP) (Projected) September 2023

OffSec Certified Professional (OSCP) May 2023

ISC2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) October 2022

eLearnSecurity Junior Penetration Tester (eJPT) February 2023

CompTIA Network Security Professional (CNSP) December 2022
Security+ / PenTest+ / Cybersecurity Analyst (CySA+)

EC-Council Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) January 2023

Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) September 2021

CompTIA Secure Cloud Professional (CSCP) November 2022
Security+ / Cloud+

CompTIA Cloud Admin Professional (CCAP) November 2022
Network+ / Cloud+

CompTIA Linux Network Professional (CLNP) October 2021
Network+ / Linux+

Capture the Flags (CTFs)

Hack The Box (HTB) & TryHackMe (THM) – Player December 2021 – Present

- Attained "Pro Hacker" rank on HTB, securing a global leaderboard ranking of #272 by compromising 30 machines, showcasing exceptional problem-solving skills and out-of-the-box thinking.
- Proved rapid resolution abilities during HTB Season 1, achieving 47th place out of 5987 competitors (top 0.8%).
- Further proved hacking skills and infosec passion during HTB Season 2, ranking 166/7390 (top 2.3%).
- Authored four machine writeups on personal blog website and created 26 YouTube video walkthroughs, highlighting clear and concise cybersecurity vulnerability documentation and reporting skills.
- Illustrated expertise in privilege escalation techniques, embracing the "Try Harder" mindset and mantra.
- Conducted successful web application attacks utilizing SQLMap, Nikto, and other tools to exploit vulnerabilities.
- Executed password cracking with John the Ripper and Hashcat, displaying competency in post-exploitation tasks.
- Demonstrated unwavering passion for the field and commitment to continuous learning, maintaining a 365-day hacking streak, completing 216 rooms, and achieving a top 0.2% global ranking on THM leaderboards.
- Developed and implemented custom exploits and payloads, expressing advanced technical skills and creativity in bypassing security defenses and gaining unauthorized access.
- Collaborated with virtual teams to tackle multi-faceted HTB machines, displaying strong teamwork, communication, and problem-solving capabilities essential for real-world red teaming engagements.