

MITCHELL KIRIAZES

Middle Tennessee

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WORK HISTORY

GenCyber – Tennessee Technological University CEROC

Cookeville, TN

Hack-A-Thon Developer

May 2024 – July 2024

- Developed innovative cybersecurity challenges for the “GenCyber-On-Wheels” program rotation at GenCyber and Tennessee Tech, aimed at teaching cyber fundamentals to elementary through high school students.
- Collaborated with a tiger team of diverse professionals in fast sprints using Agile methodology to create engaging educational content.

Ravenwood High School

Brentwood, TN

Marching Band Instructor

April 2021 – November 2024

- Led the visual and brass programs for over 150 students annually, demonstrating leadership, organization, and team coordination.
- Maintained high performance standards under pressure, fostering discipline, accountability, and time management among students.
- Provided consistent feedback and guidance, reinforcing collaboration, patience, and conflict resolution in large team settings.

PROJECTS

Capstone Project

Cookeville, TN

Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division

October 2024 – Expected May 2025

- Leveraged the Android Tactical Assault Kit framework to develop a command and control (C2) plugin for unmanned surface vessels.
- Designed a modular C2 system to enable real-time operations, route planning, and multi-operator coordination for unmanned vessels.
- Developed functionality to display waypoints, track routes, and dynamically adjust operations during field activities.
- Led a team of five as Scrum Master, managing project timelines and ensuring effective communication with stakeholders.

Cyber Resiliency and Measurement Challenge (CRAM)

Dahlgren, VA

Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren Division

September 2024 – October 2024

- Automated PDF Processing and Data Extraction: Implemented OCR and table extraction to capture and organize data from large-scale PDFs, including CVEs, hardware, and software.
- AI-Driven Vulnerability and Criticality Scoring: Developed a custom algorithm to extract and correlate CVEs with critical system functions, factoring in severity, criticality, and system vulnerabilities.
- Physical and Cyber Infrastructure Scoring: Built models with Llama3 and RAG to assess system resilience based on public policy data.
- Dynamic System Testing and Real-Time Scoring: Created environments for testing varied resilience levels, with real-time score adjustments based on CVE resolution and user-selected APTs via a user-friendly GUI.

EXPERIENCE

Tennessee Tech Defensive Cybersecurity Interest Group

Mentor – Leadership Team

Cookeville, TN

December 2023 – May 2025

- Designed and presented educational content on advanced topics such as threat hunting, ransomware defense, SIEM tooling, AD/LDAP, and secure remote access.
- Developed and deployed interactive labs using SaltStack in a virtual CyberRange for both Linux and Windows environments, enhancing hands-on experience for students.
- Collaborated with peers to research and prepare engaging materials covering firewalls, forensic analysis, web/database security, and personal system hardening.
- Facilitated technical instruction in areas like detection and response, network security, and system hardening, fostering real-world understanding of cybersecurity defense.

Hivestorm National Cybersecurity Competition

Windows Security Lead

Online Competition

October 2024

- Competed in a national cybersecurity defensive challenge, securing a Windows 10 virtual machine by rapidly mitigating vulnerabilities and responding to live threats.
- Removed persistent malware, corrected misconfigurations, and hardened services using tools like Group Policy, Registry Editor, and service control.
- Collaborated with teammates managing Linux and network systems to optimize scoring and minimize penalties.
- Helped achieve a Top-10 national finish out of 413 teams through fast, accurate remediation under pressure.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming:** Java, Python, C++, C#, Bash, SQL; working knowledge of HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Dart, Assembly, Flutter
- **Cybersecurity:** Windows and Linux system hardening, vulnerability remediation, Active Directory and Group Policy administration, SaltStack deployment, threat detection and response
- **Development Tools:** Git, Docker, Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Visual Studio Code, Visual Studio, JGrasp, PyCharm
- **Operating Systems:** Windows 10/11, Windows Server, Ubuntu, and Debian-based Linux distributions
- **Networking:** Familiar with firewalls, DNS, TCP/IP, and core protocols related to secure configuration and troubleshooting

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Finalist, Naval Surface Warfare Center CRAM Challenge
- Top 10 of 413 teams, Hivestorm National Cybersecurity Defense Competition
- National Touring Member, The Cavaliers Drum and Bugle Corps, Madison Scouts Drum and Bugle Corps
- Selected Leader, Tennessee Tech Defensive Cyber Interest Group

EDUCATION

Tennessee Tech University

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Concentration: Information Assurance and Cybersecurity

Minor: Social Sciences

Cookeville, TN

August 2023 – Expected May 2025

Columbia State Community College

Associate of Science in Computer Science

Franklin, TN

January 2021 – July 2023