

MASON KOTLARZ

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EDUCATION

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, CYBER SECURITY ENGINEERING

Ames, IA

- Bachelor of Science — 3.83 GPA — Honors Student — Dean's List

Expected May 2026

CERTIFICATIONS

U.S. – DOE Q security clearance

Issued June 2024

CompTIA Security+ ce Certification — Verification Code DR00FHKT8Z30V4S2

Issued August 2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

NATIONAL SECURITY CAMPUS MANAGED BY HONEYWELL FM&T

Kansas City, Missouri

Cyber Security Engineering Intern

June 2024 - August 2024

- Designed, implemented, and tested state-of-the-art security systems, networks, and database solutions. Maintained and collected data using enterprise SIEM (log aggregator Splunk) to support NNSA contractor requirements.
- Created and implemented apps, add-ons, scripts, forwarders, and deployment servers for data ingestion.
- Wrote Python scripts to utilize APIs, parse data, HTTP event collectors (HEC), and Syslog to ingest big data into Splunk
- Developed a new workflow to help application owners prioritize patching and remediation based on risk – streamlined and supported business flow and processes for over 80+ teams in order to maintain compliance.
- Created and improved queries to improve organization CSIRT and DFIR analytics, reports, alerts, and dashboards.

MARY GREELEY MEDICAL CENTER

Ames, IA

Information Security Specialist

June 2023 - May 2024

- Implemented endpoint protection policies through integrated testing and proof of concept development.
- Reduced risk by implementing group policy objects (GPO) to enhance our attack surface reduction (ASR) rules through pilot groups – achieved a security score increase of 10%, from 55.12% to 65.57%.
- Investigated incident responses using enterprise EDR (MS Defender) and enterprise SIEM (log aggregator Logrhythm) and utilized the SANS PICERL cycle for systematic incident response as a critical part of security operations.
- Self-taught PowerShell and Batch for scripting – leveraged vulnerability management software to upgrade 287 machines.
- Reduced the number of outdated assets from 28.67% to 6.65%. Set up downtime to avoid impacting business processes.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Iowa State University

Cyber Security Concepts and Tools – Cyb E 231 & Application of Cryptography – Cyb E 331

January 2025 - Present

- Led and fostered a supportive learning environment for multiple Lab sections.
- Provided constructive, positive feedback to students in a timely manner. Maintained consistent, professional correspondence with students and professors. Communicated and organized to work towards common goals.
- Learned presenting skills, mentored junior students, and worked with students and faculty from other cultures.

INFORMATION ASSURANCE STUDENT GROUP

Iowa State University

- Competed in International Cyber Defense Competition Spring 2025 (1st Place).
- Competed in Cyber Defense Competitions Fall 2022, Spring 2023, (2nd Place), Fall 2024 (2nd Place).
- Participating in capture the flag events, and learning network, and security skills.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Iowa State University

Honors Program

January 2023 - December 2023

- Led and fostered a supportive learning environment for a diverse group of 12 First-Year Honors students.
- Provided resources for students to ask questions, seek academic, career and goal counseling.
- Coordinated lessons and activities tailored to enhance the academic and personal growth of the students.

SKILLS & ACTIVITIES

Security: DFIR, Vulnerability Management, Endpoint Protection, Risk Management/Assesment, Network Security

Tools: Splunk, LogRhythm, Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, Python, Java, PowerShell, Batch

SALT COMPANY AMES - International Missions – Conversational English – Small Group Leader

August 2024 - Present