

## Mburu Karanja

Cybersecurity Specialist | Blue Team Junior Analyst | SOC | CTF Player

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## Summary

I'm a **highly detailed recent graduate** with BSc Information Technology with a **passion for both breaking and building secure computer systems**. Demonstrated leadership in organizing cybersecurity workshops, CTFs, and awareness events. Skilled in **reverse engineering, steganography, and digital forensics**, with active participation in CTF competitions as part of Fr334aks-mini. Eager to apply technical skills and continue growing in a dynamic cybersecurity role.

## Skills

**Cybersecurity:** Web & Mobile Security, Digital Forensics, Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Incident Response, CTFs (Reversing, Forensics, Steganography)

**Tools:** Burp Suite, Metasploit, Nmap, Ghidra, Setoolkit

**Tech:** Python, JavaScript, React, Django, HTML/CSS, MySQL, SQLite

**OS:** Linux (Kali, Ubuntu), Windows, OpenEuler

**Soft Skills:** Communication, Leadership, Teamwork, Problem-Solving, Critical Thinking

## Experience

### Cyber Chief Circle – Founder & Community Lead

*Feb 2025 – Present*

Founded a cybersecurity community connecting students across Kenyan campuses.

Hosted inter-campus workshops, CTFs, and beginner-friendly meetups.

Built a multi-campus presence in 3 months with early engagement.

### Zetech University, Ruiru – Cybersecurity Student Lead & GDG Cybersecurity Lead

*Apr 2024 – Present*

Led weekly cybersecurity learning sessions simulating CTF challenges for all levels.

Organized a CTF competition with 130 participants across multiple categories.

Hosted 2 Hack Nights with 80-150 participants, promoting team-based learning.

Developed training resources and facilitated workshops, growing the GDGoC community by 42%.

## **Cyber Secured India – Cybersecurity Virtual Scholarship Intern**

*Sep 2024 – Nov 2024*

Gained hands-on experience in web app, mobile security, and digital forensics.

Used Burp Suite, Metasploit, and Nmap to conduct vulnerability assessments and exploitation.

## **Education**

**Zetech University, Ruiru** – Bachelor of Information Technology (Sep 2022 – 2025)

## **Training and Certifications**

**Microsoft ADC, Cybershujaa** – Security Engineer (Apr - Jun 2025)

**Power Learn Project, Nairobi** – Software Engineering Certificate (Feb – Jul 2024)

- Certified Ethical Hacker – Cisco Academy
- Blue Team Junior Analyst – Security Blue Team
- Cybersecurity Fundamentals – IBM
- Cyber Threat Management – Cisco Academy
- SC-900 – Microsoft
- Student SOC Program Foundations – Microsoft
- Cybersecurity Bootcamp – Cyber Talents

## **Awards & Recognitions**

**Top 3 Finalist** – Microsoft ADC CTF (2025)

**2nd Place** – WorldSkills Competition Kenya Cybersecurity Track (2024)

## **Projects**

### **Scalable SIEM Architecture:**

Designed and implemented a scalable SIEM solution using Wazuh, AWS, and Elasticsearch to enable real-time threat detection, log analysis, and cloud infrastructure monitoring. Focused on improving visibility, automating alerting, and enhancing incident response across cloud-based environments.

### **Two-Factor Authentication System (Flask + SQLite):**

Developed a secure 2FA system using Flask, SQLite, bcrypt, and PyOTP. Users scan a QR code to enable TOTP-based verification with authenticator apps (Google Authenticator). Passwords are securely hashed, and 2FA is required to complete the login process.