

March 6, 2023

Dear Hiring Manager,

I am excited to apply for the Software Engineer at Cisco. With my Ph.D. in Software and Information Systems and industry experience, I have honed my skills in Cyber Threat Hunting, Malware Analysis, and Machine Learning. I am currently a Research and Teaching Assistant at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where I am developing a distributed security analytics system for distributed threat hunting. My research has been funded by DOE and ONR, and my work aims to deliver monitoring intrusiveness, reduce communication overhead among agents, and enable local decision-making while maintaining attacks and attack techniques detection accuracy high and in time.

As a Teaching Assistant, I teach, design, and prepare graduate courses in Principles of Information Security and Privacy, Network Infrastructure Security, and Data Mining. Before joining UNC Charlotte as a Ph.D. student, I worked as a Software Engineer and Team Lead at Kona Software Lab Ltd., Dhaka, Bangladesh, where I developed middleware libraries for PKI and CA systems. I also led a team of three software developers to design and develop NFC-based smart card authentication for Windows OS.

I am well-versed in programming languages such as Python, Java, C++, C, and Prolog. I also have working knowledge of R, Android, and C#. Additionally, I have expertise in web development and scripting with Shell Scripting, PHP, JavaScript, HTML5, and SQL. I am proficient in using visualization tools such as UML, Weka, and Gephi, and version control tools such as Git. I have experience with virtualization tools like VirtualBox, VMWare, Kubernetes, and Docker, and I am familiar with IDAPro, Sysmon, OllyDbg, Splunk, and Scrum/Agile development. I have experience with machine learning libraries such as Stanford CoreNLP, AllenNLP, NLTK, Scikit-learn, and Keras, and I have worked extensively with the MITRE ATT&CK framework, ElasticSearch, and RabbitMQ.

I have several research and project experiences that I believe make me a strong candidate for this position. AUTO-Hunter, which I am currently working on, is a Distributed Hierarchical Event Monitoring System for Attack Diagnosis through Active Investigation of Attacker Activities. I designed and implemented this system to reduce attack detection time, communication overhead, and resource usage. I also developed low-level log collecting agents for the Windows system (ETW, event logs, syslog, NetFlow) and detectors to map low-level traces to the MITRE ATT&CK technique and evidential reasoning framework. I have also worked on the Critical Security Control (CSC) Validation project, which involved automated extraction of threat action, observables, and development of key measurement indicators (KMI) and metrics for KMI of each CSC. Additionally, I worked on TTPDrill, which was an Automatic and Accurate Extraction of Threat Actions from Unstructured Text of CTI Sources and mapping of threat actions to MITRE ATT&CK techniques. Finally, I developed PKI-Middleware, a PKCS#11 dynamic library that complies with KISA and FIPS standards.

I am excited to bring my skills and experience to your team. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mohiuddin Ahmed

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