

Neel Patel

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EDUCATION

University of South Florida | Kopp College of Engineering
Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity (BSCYS)

Tampa, FL
Spring 2026

- Florida Medallion Scholar Recipient

Relevant Coursework: Hands-On Cybersecurity, System Integration and Architecture, Advance Program Design, IT Data Structures, Information Security/IT Risk Management

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Certifications:** Microsoft (Career Essentials in Cybersecurity), Splunk (Intro to Splunk), LinkedIn (Cybersecurity with Cloud Computing), LinedIn (Cybersecurity Foundations), Fortinet (Fortinet Certified Associate Cybersecurity)
- **Software:** Python, SQL, CSS, C, Rust, HTML, GCP, GA4, GSC, Microsoft Azure, Wireshark, AWS, HackTheBox, Forti Manager, Cisco ASDM

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Seminole Electric Cooperative Inc.
Cybersecurity Co-Op Student

Tampa, FL
Jan 2025 – Present

- Managed and optimized 40+ firewall ACLs, enhancing network security by reducing unauthorized access incidents by 12% while maintaining seamless traffic flow. Collaborated with cross-functional teams to refine security policies and improve firewall rule efficiency.
- Worked closely with SCADA operations to enhance firewall inventory accuracy by 6%, integrating patch management systems to streamline compliance tracking.
- Ensured full compliance with NERC CIP standards by securing necessary clearances, conducting risk assessments, and enforcing security controls. Monitored regulatory updates and participated in audits to strengthen overall cyber networks.

Super Purposes

Cyber-Tech Specialist

Remote
Sep 2024 – Nov 2024

- Enhance system resilience by improving application security across 5+ platforms, reducing security vulnerabilities by 15% and system downtime by 20% through effective incident response planning and troubleshooting.
- Assist in onboarding new Cyber-Tech Specialists, providing guidance on internal processes and best practices, leading to 12% faster integration and productivity for new team members, while leveraging LastPass, Podio, and Basecamp to streamline IAM, reducing unauthorized access by 8% and enhancing security.

KB Studios

SEO Research and Data Analysis Intern

Tallahassee, FL
Jan 2024 - Aug 2024

- Collaborated with a small team to analyze web traffic and implement SEO strategies, driving a 15% increase in engagement and a 25% boost in organic search traffic for clients.
- Simplified complex data into actionable insights, improving SEO performance and enhancing client satisfaction through targeted recommendations.

AT&T

Technology Academy Externship

Remote
Summer 2024

- Developed expertise in network technologies, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and software development by completing 15+ real-world simulations and collaborating with AT&T experts on enterprise-level security challenges.
- Improved troubleshooting efficiency by 12% by applying theoretical knowledge and optimizing technology methods in practical simulations.

PERSONAL PROJECTS & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Association for Computing Machinery

Apr 2024 – Apr 2025

- Managed over \$8,000 worth of financial assets and budgets for four ACM teams, ensuring compliance with institutional policies while serving as a liaison between Student Business Services and Student Government
- Secured over \$9,000 in funding through 12+ vendor negotiations for workshops, enhancing member engagement and learning opportunities through well-organized events.

At Home Security Operations Lab

Spring 2025

- Developed a virtual SOC lab using VirtualBox, integrating Kali Linux as the attack platform and Ubuntu as the defense system, creating a controlled environment for simulating and analyzing 30+ cybersecurity attack and defense scenarios.
- Designed and implemented penetration testing and defense strategies, providing hands-on experience in threat identification, mitigation, and cybersecurity defense practices.