NIKOLLA NICKOLOV

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https://nikolla-portfolio.vercel.app/

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Cybersecurity & Threat Intelligence:
OSINT, Suricata, Graylog SIEM, CVSS, Threat Hunting

Programming & Scripting:
C#, C, Python, HTML, JavaScript, SQL, Bash

Database Security:
Microsoft SQL Server, SQLite, Encryption, RBAC, Auditing, UDFs, Stored Procedures, Triggers

Active Directory & Systems:
Windows Server, AD Management, Group Policy, Linux (Kali, ParrotOS, Ubuntu)

Networking & Security Tools:
Wireshark, tcpdump, Nmap, Snort, Hydra, Metasploit, OPNsense, Cisco ASA, OpenVPN, IPSec

Penetration Testing:
Kali Linux, Burp Suite, DVWA, bWAPP, SQL Injection, XSS, LFI, RFI

Cloud & Virtualization:
AWS IAM, S3, VPC, VMware, VirtualBox

Microsoft Office:
Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook

Core Competencies:
Threat Detection & Response, Incident Investigation & Reporting, Vulnerability Assessment & Remediation, SIEM Log Monitoring & Analysis, Secure System & Database Management, Cybersecurity Project Execution, Critical Thinking, Risk Assessment, Root Cause Analysis, Problem-Solving, Strong Communication, Team Leadership, Time Management, Task Prioritization, Attention to Detail

CYBERSECURITY ANALYST | INFORMATION SECURITY SPECIALIST

An analytical and detail-oriented cybersecurity graduate with expertise in managing Linux and Windows environments and automating security workflows using Python scripting. Hands-on experience in designing and deploying intrusion detection systems, developing ML-based phishing detectors, and analyzing security events with SIEM tools. Familiar with incident response processes, vulnerability assessment, and cross-functional collaboration. Seeking a challenging entry-level cybersecurity analyst role with a commitment to strengthening security measures and improving threat detection capabilities.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Cybersecurity
University Of South Florida, Tampa, FL — May 2025
GPA: 3.8

Associate Degree
Saint Petersburg College, Clearwater, FL — May 2022
GPA: 3.75

KEY PROJECTS

Honeypot-Based Intrusion Detection System (T-Pot, Cowrie, Dionaea, ELK Stack) (Home Lab)
- Deployed high-interaction honeypots (Cowrie, Dionaea) on a T-Pot platform to capture attacker behavior in real time.
- Mapped captured attacker TTPs to the MITRE ATT&CK framework and the Cyber Kill Chain, improving adversary emulation and defensive strategy understanding.
- Demonstrated ability to detect brute-force attempts, malware deployment, and command-and-control traffic within a controlled lab environment.

Secure URL Scanner – Python, VirusTotal API (Home Lab)
- Developed a Python-based security automation tool that integrates with the VirusTotal API to detect phishing, malware, and malicious domains.
- Implemented batch scanning and concurrent processing to support incident response triage and improve SOC efficiency.
- Enhanced tool accuracy by integrating real-time threat intelligence feeds to strengthen detection of zero-day and suspicious URLs.

Phishing Email Detection System – Python, Flask, Machine Learning (ML)
- Designed an ML-driven phishing detection system leveraging TF-IDF vectorization, supervised learning, and natural language processing (NLP).
- Identified spear-phishing campaigns through detection of urgency triggers, credential-harvesting domains, and deceptive hyperlinks.

Database Security Management - SQL, Microsoft SQL, SQLite
- Designed and secured SQL databases using access controls, encryption, and security best practices.

Stock Market Prediction Algorithm - C#, OOP
- Assembled a stock market system in C# using object-oriented programming and technical analysis to forecast stock trends.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Valet Associate | Hyatt Hotels Corporation
Towne Park, Clearwater, FL — Mar 2022 - Present

Head Lifeguard
YMCA, Clearwater City Community Pool, FL — Mar 2021 - Aug 2023