Niknaz Sadehvandi

Junior Cybersecurity Analyst

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GitHub Portfolio: https://niknaz-65.github.io/niknaz-portfolio/

Cybersecurity and IT Specialist with hands-on experience in vulnerability management, incident response, and IT General Controls testing. Skilled in SOX compliance, corrective actions, annual audits, and control remediation. Strong ability to collaborate with auditors, management, and control owners to ensure timely resolution of deficiencies. Holds an M.S. in Cybersecurity Technology (4.0 GPA) with technical expertise across SIEM, IDS/IPS, Active Directory, and risk management frameworks.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Junior Cybersecurity Analyst
Sunset Auto Sales

03/2020 - current Charlotte, NC

- Executed IT General Controls testing, achieving 100% compliance with SOX regulations and enhancing internal audit readiness.
- Spearheaded process improvements that enhanced compliance by 25% and addressed key control deficiencies.
- Streamlined documentation of testing procedures, boosting team efficiency by 20% and reducing errors.
- Collaborated with control owners and stakeholders to implement corrective actions, achieving a 95% timely resolution rate.
- Facilitated collaboration with internal and external auditors by providing documentation for 5 annual audit reviews, enhancing compliance efficiency.
- Conducted vulnerability management and incident response, reducing phishing triage times by 30% and false positives by 25%
- Enhanced Splunk's capabilities by integrating threat intelligence feeds, improving detection rates by 30% across the organization.

Customer Service
Bloomingdale's

05/2015 - 12/2019   Tyson's Corner, VA

- Managed and triaged over 100 customer requests weekly, achieving a 90% issue resolution rate on first contact.
- Successfully trained and mentored 10 new associates, leading to a 25% increase in documentation accuracy.
- Enhanced compliance by tracking 50+ issues monthly, leading to 30% reduction in corrective actions needed.

Administrator and IT Help desk support
Kafpoush

12/2010 - 02/2015   Germantown, MD

- Optimized IT systems and security tools, enhancing controls and reducing vulnerabilities by 30%.
- Implemented user access validation through fingerprinting, ensuring compliance across 100+ audits annually.
- Conducted thorough security audits and vulnerability assessments, identifying 15 major risks and enhancing control documentation.
- Automated reporting, reducing manual errors by 40% and supporting audit readiness.
- Managed store operations and team during peak periods, leading to a 15% increase in sales before closure in 2015.

Architectural & IT Assistant
Ganjineh
03/2004 - 06/2009   Tehran, Iran

- Spearheaded IT solutions, CCTV, and secure access installations, enhancing security compliance by 30% and reducing incidents.
- Collaborated with engineers to enhance IT controls, ensuring full compliance with physical security standards, resulting in a 15% reduction in security breaches.
- Enhanced risk analysis and security strategies, ensuring 100% compliance in IT system audits through detailed documentation.

PROJECTS

Digital Forensics & Incident Response Lab
UMGC   01/2025 - 03/2025

- Investigated intrusions using forensic tools (FTK Imager, Autopsy, Autoruns)
- Identified persistence mechanisms, unauthorized accounts, and SSH exfiltration
- Documented findings in structured reports aligned with NIST standards and IT General Controls testing practices.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Cybersecurity Technology
University of Maryland

2024 - 2025

Awards

- President's List, GPA: 4.0

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
University of Phoenix

2022 - 2024

Awards

- Magna Cum Laude

Associate of Arts in Information Technology
Central Piedmont Community College

2022 – 2019

Associate of Science in Architecture Drawing
Islamic Azad University

2008, GPA: 18.11/20   Iran

SKILLS

- Security & Compliance: IT General Controls · SOX · Annual Audit · Corrective Actions · Risk Management · Incident Response · Threat Hunting · Digital Forensics · Security Audits · Evidence Collection
- Systems & Platforms: Windows · Linux · Mac · Active Directory · Office 365 Security · AWS · Azure Fundamentals
- Tools: Splunk · Tenable · Nessus · Wireshark · FTK Imager · Autopsy · Burp Suite · Nmap · Autoruns

- Programming: Python · PowerShell · Bash · Java · R
- Soft Skills: Timely Resolution · Mentoring · Communication · Documentation · Collaboration

CERTIFICATIONS

- Python Basics for Data Science – IBM, 01/2024
- R Programming Fundamentals – Stanford Online, 01/2024