

Zachary Nicholas

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Technical Projects: github.com/Toast-stack | LinkedIn: linkedin.com/in/zachary-nicholas1341

Professional Summary

Results-driven cybersecurity professional holding a B.S. in Computer Science and credentials including CompTIA Security+ and CySA+. Leveraging a disciplined background from military service and IT consulting, I specialize in threat detection, vulnerability management, and automation scripting (using Python, PowerShell, and Bash) to enhance security operations through tools like Splunk and Microsoft Defender. My hands-on experience is further enriched by a self-managed home lab, where I have deepened my understanding of network security fundamentals — including TCP/IP, BGP, OSPF, VLANs, ACLs, DNS, and DHCP. While I continue to expand my practical enterprise network engineering skills, my adaptability and passion for learning enable me to quickly master new technologies and effectively address emerging security challenges

Core Competencies

Cybersecurity & Incident Response; SIEM & Automation Scripting; Network Security Fundamentals (TCP/IP, VLANs, ACLs, DNS/DHCP); Compliance & Risk Management (NIST, ISO 27001, HIPAA)

Certifications

CompTIA A+, Network+, Security+, & CySA+ (Expires: Apr 2028); Certified in Cybersecurity (ISC2, Expires: Mar 2028)

Experience

Independent IT Consultant | Self Employed

Jan 2020 - Present

- Conduct vulnerability assessments and optimize SIEM configurations (Splunk, Microsoft Defender) to proactively manage security threats.
- Develop automation scripts (Python, PowerShell, Bash) to improve monitoring efficiency and streamline incident response workflows.
- Manage a home lab simulating enterprise environments, experimenting with network segmentation, secure configurations, and threat analysis.
- Advise on compliance frameworks including NIST, ISO 27001, and HIPAA, ensuring security best practices are implemented.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic | United States Marine Corps

May 2017 - Aug 2021

- Diagnosed and repaired complex mechanical, electrical, hydraulic, and fuel system failures, executing structured troubleshooting methodologies to maintain operational readiness.
- Utilized advanced diagnostic tools and automated testing systems to assess system performance, optimize efficiency, and improve technical reliability.
- Developed standardized maintenance procedures, refining workflows and improving long-term equipment durability through structured evaluations.
- Managed inventory control and compliance documentation, ensuring adherence to operational guidelines and maintaining strategic resource availability.
- Trained and mentored junior personnel, reinforcing structured learning, process improvement, and technical proficiency in system assessments.

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Cybersecurity Home Lab: Built using Kali Linux, Wireshark, Metasploit, and Snort. Includes experiments with network segmentation, VLAN concepts, and secure communications.

Custom Tools: Designed network monitoring and diagnostic applications in Python and PowerShell to automate security checks and enhance system visibility.

Education

B.S. in Computer Science

Oct 2021 – Dec 2024

Southern New Hampshire University | GPA: 3.797