

Zachary Nicholas

Hubert, NC | 910-320-1369 | zachary.nicholas@outlook.com

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

Professional Summary

Cybersecurity and IT professional with a B.S. in Computer Science and CompTIA Security+ & CySA+ certifications, bringing structured problem-solving, technical troubleshooting, and automation expertise to complex challenges. Experienced in security operations, risk management, automation scripting, and custom system configuration, with a proactive approach to technical optimization and system reliability.

Beyond cybersecurity, I have built and configured high-performance computers, developed automation scripts in Python, PowerShell, and Bash, and managed technical documentation for system efficiency. I thrive in roles that demand attention to detail, analytical thinking, and adaptable problem-solving.

Core Competencies

Cybersecurity & Incident Response | SIEM & Security Monitoring | Vulnerability Management | Risk Assessment & Compliance | Python, PowerShell & Bash Automation | Technical Documentation & Troubleshooting

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 security audits, risk assessments, and SIEM monitoring, optimizing detection workflows.
- Perform vulnerability assessments and remediation planning, ensuring compliance with NIST 800-53, ISO 27001, and HIPAA.
- Build and configure custom computers, including performance-driven setups for coding, 3D modeling, gaming, and server management.
- Develop security automation scripts (Python, PowerShell, Bash) to streamline log collection, system monitoring, and security configurations.
- Automate repetitive system tasks with Bash scripting, improving efficiency in file management, security checks, and compliance reporting.
- Manage a home lab server, integrating NAS storage, Plex media streaming, and virtualization services.

Heavy Equipment Mechanic | United States Marine Corps

May 2017 - Aug 2021

- Diagnosed and repaired complex mechanical, electrical, and hydraulic failures, ensuring fleet readiness.
- Managed technical documentation and compliance tracking, improving maintenance workflow efficiency.
- Oversaw inventory control to ensure proper classification and distribution of technical materials.
- Trained and mentored personnel, reinforcing structured problem-solving and attention to detail.

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Cybersecurity Home Lab: Configured virtual environments using Kali Linux, Wireshark, Metasploit, and Snort to refine expertise in network segmentation, forensic analysis, and security automation.

System Optimization & Custom Builds: Designed and built high-performance computers tailored for coding, part design, gaming, and multi-system processing. Managed and optimized home lab storage servers for secure data access.

Education

B.S. in Computer Science

Oct 2021 – Dec 2024

Southern New Hampshire University | GPA: 3.797