

# ALEX MERELUS

(678) 725-5553 ✉ alexmerelus@gmail.com 🌐 www.alexmerelus.me in www.linkedin.com/in/alexmerelus/

## EDUCATION

### WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY

*M.S. in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance*  
2024

Salt Lake City, UT  
July

### OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

*B.S. in Business Finance*  
2014

Huntsville, AL  
May

## EXPERIENCE

### Inspire Brands

#### *Identity Governance Administrator*

Orlando, FL  
Nov 2023 - Present

- Successfully integrated IAM policies and procedures, focusing on adherence of access certifications for SOX standards using SailPoint IdentityNow, Active Directory and Workday.
- Utilized ServiceNow for effective ticket management and auditing of access controls, as well as maintaining a SLA in line with industry standards.
- Handle Web Automation Testing with API tools such as Postman to manage SailPoint IdentityNow Access Requests and ensure proper Site functionality.
- Developed a reporting system to analyze identity accounts and manage any uncorrelated and inactive to reduce attack surface and vulnerabilities.
- Worked closely with cross-functional teams using Atlassian tools like Jira and Confluence to implement and optimize identity governance strategies.
- Leveraged Agile methodologies to deploy and streamline Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) solutions, enhancing and revamping the identity management infrastructure for improved security and efficiency.

### DxFeed/DevExperts

#### *Information Security Specialist*

Jersey City, New Jersey  
March 2022 – Nov 2023

- Orchestrated secure cloud configurations across AWS platforms using Nessus: Boosted system integrity and reduced vulnerabilities by 60% over six months, improving security posture for mission-critical systems.
- Championed SOC-2 compliance Initiatives by taking an active role in the execution of compliance strategies, placing a significant emphasis on identity lifecycle management and best practices for access control.
- Participated in SIFMA's annual Business Continuity (BC) and Disaster Recovery Plan (DR) testing: Reinforcing the organization's commitment to data protection and resilience.
- Enhanced collaboration using Agile tools like Atlassian Jira with internal and external technical teams to ensure robust and secure data handling.

### Eretmis

#### *PCI DSS Consultant*

New York, NY  
Nov 2022 – May 2023

- Evaluated Internal IT Controls: Conducted comprehensive system assessments, enhancing alignment with PCI DSS standards, leading to a heightened security profile and reduced vulnerabilities.
- Led Network Audits: Collaborated closely with cross-functional teams, overseeing detailed audits and compliance questionnaires, ensuring robust and secure critical information systems.
- Promoted IGA Principles: Crafted and provided actionable security recommendations, driving a marked improvement in organizational security and compliance standards.

### Apple, Inc

#### *Technical Security Expert*

March 2022

New York, NY  
May 2020 –

- Maintained adherence to Apple's security protocols to consistently uphold industry regulations and ensure the security of customer data and privacy.
- Executed identity governance strategies, significantly reducing potential breaches and safeguarding sensitive customer user data, and introduced identity protection techniques, countering threats and mitigating potential vulnerabilities.
- Spearheaded compliance and remediation processes, collaborating with cross-functional teams, and ensuring a strict alignment with industry standards and cybersecurity best practices.

- Deployed endpoint security on user devices using advanced tools, emphasizing data loss prevention and access management. This resulted in effectively countering vulnerabilities, leading to a 30% reduction in security incidents.

## Apple, Inc

New York, NY

### Technical Specialist

Oct 2019 – May 2020

- Mitigated mobile device risks by deploying comprehensive risk mitigation techniques, enhancing user data protection against sophisticated threat actors.
- Developed and conducted meticulous monthly security sessions, tailoring content to address pressing issues, thereby elevating the organization's security posture.
- Optimized security remediation protocols, enhancing threat resolution efficiency during periods of heightened security alerts, resulting in a 25% improvement in incident response time
- Educated users on mobile device management best practices, ensuring secure device deployment for employees and enhancing overall security posture through advanced features.

## Apple, Inc

New York, NY

### Apple-Care Support Advisor

May 2015 – Oct 2019

- Coached 34 colleagues over six-month periods on key technical tools and concepts, enhancing team proficiency and elevating customer support quality.
- Enhanced endpoint security by utilizing anti-malware tools, successfully resolving and removing over 1,000 vulnerabilities regularly, and ensuring a consistently secure baseline configuration.
- Guided customers through technical troubleshooting and resolved complex issues across Apple products, enhancing customer trust and brand loyalty. Tailoring communication strategies for diverse audiences and collaborated with cross-functional teams, boosting resolution efficiency and customer satisfaction.
- Leveraged customer interactions to provide feedback for product enhancements, simultaneously balancing multiple support tasks and engaging in continuous learning sessions to maintain up-to-date product knowledge.

## Best Buy

Huntsville, AL

### Mobile Sales Consultant

Nov 2012 – May 2015

Facilitated comprehensive mobile device consultations, efficiently driving sales and activations while ensuring customer satisfaction; adeptly navigated and implemented cybersecurity measures for device setups, resulting in enhanced customer trust and data protection.

## PROJECTS

### Azure Vulnerability Remediation/Home Lab – [www.github.com/alexmerelus/Azure-SOC](https://www.github.com/alexmerelus/Azure-SOC)

- Designed and deployed a Cloud Honeynet within Microsoft Azure as an integrated Security Operations Center (SOC) to proactively identify threats, simulate attack scenarios, and enhance cybersecurity infrastructure.
- Conducted in-depth security analysis and incident response adhering to the NIST 800-61 Incident Management Lifecycle.
- Managed cybersecurity operations by monitoring traffic and access attempts through Network Security Groups (NSGs), ensuring secure data flow between Azure AD (Microsoft Entra ID), SQL Databases, and Virtual Machines.
- Leveraged Azure Log Analytics Workspace for logging and real-time analysis of honeynet activity, and utilized Azure Sentinel for advanced threat detection, alerting, and incident visualization.
- Evaluated and fortified the cybersecurity posture before and after applying security control measures in line with NIST 800-53 (SC-7: Boundary Protection) and utilized Azure Sentinel for SIEM operations, resulting in a strategic improvement of early threat detection and SOC monitoring capabilities.

### IAM Security Implementation/Home Lab – [www.github.com/alexmerelus/IAM-Cloud-Project](https://www.github.com/alexmerelus/IAM-Cloud-Project)

- Designed and deployed a resilient static website using Microsoft Visual Studio Code and Amazon S3, ensuring optimal availability and performance, and Achieved 99.9% uptime, ensuring high availability.
- Set up a serverless visitor counter using AWS Lambda and Amazon API Gateway, for real-time visitor tracking.
- Prioritized cloud security, with a focus on Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) using AWS IAM configurations.

## CERTIFICATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, and CPEs

- CompTIA – Security +
- CompTIA – CySA +
- CompTIA – PenTest +
- (ISC)<sup>2</sup> CC - Certified in Cybersecurity
- Google - Cybersecurity Professional Certification

- Microsoft (SC-900) - Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals
- Qualys Certified Specialist - PCI Compliance

## **SKILLS AND TOOLS**

---

- AWS EC2, Amazon API Gateway, GitHub, Qualys Guard, Vulnerability Management, NIST controls, Wireshark, AttackIQ - Foundations of Operationalizing MITRE ATT&CK, AWS Security Fundamentals, Microsoft Azure, Nessus, NIST 800 – 53, Business Continuity, IT Security, OWASP TOP 10, ServiceNow, Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, Teams, Outlook, SailPoint IdentityNow, Postman.