**ALEX MERELUS**

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

**EXPERIENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**DxFeed/DevExperts** Jersey City, New Jersey

***Data Security Specialist***  March 2022 - Present

* 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** New York, NY

***PCI DSS Consultant***  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** New York, NY

***Technical Security Expert***  May 2020 – March 2022

* 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**

* 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**

* 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.

**EDUCATION\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**  Salt Lake City, UT

***M.S. in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance (In Progress)***  July, 2024

**OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY**  Huntsville, AL

***B.S. in Business Finance***  May, 2014

**CERTIFICATIONS, PUBLICATIONS, and CPEs\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* CompTIA - Security+ (Plus)
* (ISC)² CC - Certified in Cybersecurity
* Google - Cybersecurity Professional Certification
* Microsoft (SC-900) - Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals
* Qualys Certified Specialist - PCI Compliance

**SKILLS AND TOOLS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Python, 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, Microsoft Visual Studio Code.