

Kat McLaren

Dedicated cybersecurity and IT professional with experience in cloud security, system administration, and technical support. Adept at implementing AWS and Wiz security best practices, automating processes with Python, and improving compliance through direct user collaboration. A proactive problem-solver with a strong foundation in documentation and technical communication, seeking opportunities to further enhance organizational security and resilience against cyber threats.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cloud Security Student Assistant October 2024 – Present

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Cybersecurity - Berkeley, CA

- Gained practical experience in Wiz and AWS security best practices to improve cloud security posture
- Identify and resolve AWS security issues through direct communication and collaboration with users
- Automate bulk email communication by developing a Python script integrated with SendGrid to send 70+ emails efficiently
- Strengthen compliance with security best practices by proactively engaging with users and addressing vulnerabilities

BCSB Student Assistant October 2022 – September 2024

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Advanced Light Source - Berkeley, CA

- Developed Python scripts for file management and machine testing
- Set up Puppet and CheckMK servers and configured agents to more easily update beamline servers with the necessary files and packages and monitor issues as they arise
- Supported my team on technical issues that arose including system administration, website management, and upgrading or adding features to existing systems
- Wrote technical documentation on the team's internal Confluence site for any new features added

Workstation Support Student Assistant March – September 2022

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, IT - Berkeley, CA

- Worked as a team member with Workstation Support to ensure Lab employees had working and secure computers and ergo safe work spaces
- Provided technical support to Lab employees regarding various issues, including equipment return and processing, and computer repair or replacement
- Worked on technical projects to assist other departments including embedded IT support and cybersecurity
- Project work including lead on the evaluation of local password reset software and disk encryption software supporting a zero trust environment

Good Tech Scholars Program July – August 2021

IBM - Remote

- Researched clean energy alternatives and developed a chatbot using IBM Watson Assistant API and Node.js which helped the user find solar options to decrease their carbon footprint

CONTACT

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SKILLS

Programming:

- Python (web dev and scripting)
- Unix/Linux command line
- Puppet
- C++
- Django
- JavaScript

System Administration:

- Virtual machines
- Ticketing systems (ServiceNow, Jira)
- Linux
- CheckMK
- SSL Certificates/Certificate Authorities
- Apache
- Database management (MySQL, PostgreSQL)

Business Skills:

- Writing documentation/knowledge based articles
- Customer service/de-escalation

EDUCATION

City College of San Francisco

Associate of Sciences

Computer Networking & Information

Technology - Cybersecurity – May 2024

Computer Science – 2020 - Present

General Assembly SF

Software Engineering

Immersive

Full-Stack Web Development - Jan 2020

New York University

Associate of Arts

Art History, Studio Art – May 2014

AWARDS

CCSF Dean's List

Achieved a 4.0 GPA as a full-time student — Dec 2023

- Created a Cloudant database to connect to the chatbot using IBM Cloud code patterns
- Worked together as a team with the guidance of IBM mentors, created a group presentation to share our project with a panel of IBM judges

Shift Lead, Sr. Sales Associate

January 2017 – August 2019

GameStop - New York, NY and Jersey City, NJ

- Promoted from cashier to management in 1 year and recruited to New Jersey location to manage merchandising, inventory, shipment processing, and new employee training
- Managed team day-to-day and delegated tasks amongst team members
- Achieved highest sales by a margin of over 3 thousand dollars during the 2018 holiday season

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Password Reset Project

Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

- Researched and tested four different applications to reset local Windows account passwords and determined which was the best for our needs
- Presented my findings in a PowerPoint presentation to the IT department and composed documentation enabling IT support team to easily use the software to create a bootable password reset USB
- Purchased an enterprise license which is now available for the IT Support Services team to download on the company software page
- Received a Spot Recognition Award from the IT department for my work

Don't Waste Food

2020 DevWeek Hackathon

- Led a team in creating a web app that used the TomTom API to help people with extra food connect to food banks accepting donations
- As a team we created an SQL database to store user account information, and used JavaScript and React.js to incorporate the TomTom API and presented our app to a panel of judges

Dungeons & Dragons Character Creator

General Assembly

- Created a web app to build and store D&D 5th Edition characters using JavaScript, Node, Express.js, SQLite, and React.js
- Built a JavaScript function that mimics rolling dice to generate character stats - it "rolls" four 6-sided dice by generating random numbers and displays the sum of the three largest

Spot Recognition Awards -

Berkeley Lab

BCSB

Record year of productivity with over 60,000 crystals analyzed – Dec 2023

IT - Workstation Support

Individual award for my work on Windows password resetting software and a group award for my assistance with Sophos disc encryption – Sep 2022

NextGen CyberTalent Grant

Selected for a competitive cybersecurity scholar grant for achievements in relevant classes – July 2021

OTHER

- CCSF CCDC competitor since 2023
- SF LGBT Center volunteer since 2021
- BSides Conference volunteer since 2020