ADEN TESSMAN

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Post-Secondary and Career Goals

My primary career goal is to pursue a position as a Cybersecurity Architect or Artificial Intelligence Engineer. I plan to deepen my knowledge in both fields through targeted coursework and hands-on projects, focusing on network security, threat analysis, and machine learning. By gaining practical experience through internships, I aim to develop innovative solutions that protect sensitive data while ensuring compliance with industry standards. I envision integrating AI with cybersecurity to enhance system resilience against evolving threats. Ultimately, I aspire to lead advancements that contribute to a safer digital landscape.

Education

Tarleton State University — GPA: 4.0   **2022 − 2026**
Pursuing Bachelor of Science, Computer Science (Software Engineering)
Tarleton State University — GPA: 4.0   **2022 − 2026**
Pursuing Bachelor of Science, Cybersecurity

Previous Work Experience

Security Operations Center Intern - Alcon   **May− August 2025**
914-1056 Joel East Rd, Fort Worth, TX 76140   *(817) 293-0450*

- Supported enterprise-wide threat detection and response through hands-on use of Microsoft Sentinel (SIEM/SOAR), Microsoft Defender for Endpoint (EDR), and Defender for Cloud, enhancing visibility across on-prem and cloud environments.
- Designed and implemented a log source self-auditing framework in Sentinel to validate log field quality, alert logic, and data coverage against known Cloud application vulnerabilities.
- Researched API security risks across diverse deployment pipelines and engineered MuleSoft alerting logic; defined critical log events for ingestion into Sentinel to enable automated SOAR playbook responses. Assessed Defender for Cloud's API discovery tools to close gaps in API inventory and identify shadow/zombie APIs that do not follow current company security standards.
- Leveraged Microsoft DFC to implement threat protection and enhance compliance across hybrid and multi-cloud environments.
- Authored and fine-tuned KQL queries for new and existing Sentinel analytic rules, aligned with the MITRE ATTCK framework to increase detection efficacy and reduce false positives.
- Led phishing awareness initiatives by proposing external email banner enhancements and user-facing threat detection tools such as 1-click phishing reporting, awareness tips, and threat education resources.
- Collaborated with security engineers and cloud infrastructure teams to harden monitoring of multi-cloud environments and ensure coverage of critical SaaS, IaaS, and hybrid assets.

Lab Instructor - Tarleton State University   **January− May 2025**
207 St Peter St, Stephenville, TX 76401   *(254) 960-9863*

- Instructed undergraduate students in hands-on laboratory sessions, reinforcing lecture concepts through practical application. Utilized tools such as C and MSSQL to demonstrate real-world DBMS concepts and applications.
- Evaluated lab assignments, projects, and homeworks, providing feedback to help students improve technical proficiency.

Projects and Extracurriculars

Machine Intelligence and Security Research Lab   **Summer 2024 − Present**
Tarleton State University   *Supervisor: Dr. Thejas Gubbi Sadashiva, Dept. CSEE*

- Project Title: Smarter Sampling for Safer Inboxes: Enhancing Phishing Email Detection with DistilBert
- Role: Head Researcher/ Team Lead
- Implementing and comparing multiple sampling methods, including oversampling, undersampling, SMOTE, ADASYN, and K-SMOTE, to optimize model performance and mitigate class imbalance.
- Utilized advanced techniques such as statistical modeling, data analysis, and software like Python
- Collaborated with peers to develop comprehensive documentation of methodologies and findings, enhancing knowledge sharing and reproducibility of results.

Tarleton Computer Society — Role: President   **Spring 2025 − Present**
Tarleton State University   *Supervisor: Joseph Meier, Dept. CSEE*

- Revived and revitalized the dormant Computer Society Club, increasing active membership by 1200% within the first semester.
- Organized and led regular meetings, workshops, and events, including coding challenges, guest speaker sessions, and hackathons, to foster collaboration and learning among Computer Science students.

Research Showcase

RIED Research Symposium 2025   **March 4th− 2025**
Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX, 76402

- Project Title: Exploring Sampling Methods for Enhancing Phishing Email Detection Using Large Language Models

MCOE Student Project Showcase 2025   **May 2nd− 2025**
Tarleton State University, Stephenville, TX, 76402

- Project Title: Smarter Sampling for Safer Inboxes: Enhancing Phishing Email Detection with DistilBert

Languages and OS

- Operating Systems: Windows 10, Windows 11, Ubuntu, CentOS
- Languages: C, C++, Java, Python, SQL, JavaScript