Professional Skills Matrix and Action Plan (PDP)

Current PG Cert. Student University of Essex

October, 2023

S/N	Focus Area/Goal	Tasks/Action Steps	Timeframe	Desired Outcome
1	Master Information or Cyber Security Management	- Finding the right school with suitable modules. - Enrolling in an Information Security Management master program. -	Dec. 2024	To incorporate and implement effective data management strategies in my cyber/cloud security career. Being a great cloud security architect with compliance and management acumen and being grounded in InfoSec management will make me apply proper methodologies to building security solutions.
1	Improve web application testing skills.	1. Experiment with web testing tools, and techniques and create a lab. 2. Collaborate with peers on security challenges.	Nov. 2023 - March 2024	To understand more about the malicious users' actions and be a better cyber defender.

2	Achieve certification in information security.	1. Pay for the certificate 2. Participate in a study group or review course. 3. Take practice exams to gauge progress.	August, 2025 (prepare for 4 months)	Pursue Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification.
3	Develop expertise in cloud security.	1. Work on real-world cloud security projects. 2. Contribute articles or research in the field.	6 months (starting November 2023)	1. Pursue advanced cloud security certifications (e.g., AWS Certified Security – Specialty). 2. Build a Docker and Kubernetes lab
4	Improve leadership and communication skills by building my confidence.	1. Join a professional organisation related to cybersecurity and offer to speak 2. Attend conferences and network with professionals. 3. Take courses or workshops in leadership and communication.	Continues improvement goal and no timeline.	1. Be clear and Confident when communicating to business leaders about cyber security. 2. Effective Listening 3. Effective Team Leadership 4. Public Speaking and Presentation Skills 5. Conflict Resolution and

				Negotiation
				6. Impact and Enhanced Self-Assurance

Weaknesses	Action plan to overcome weakness
- Time Constraints	- Allocate specific and realistic time slots. - Break down my goals into smaller, manageable tasks.
- Procrastination and Motivation	Set specific, achievable deadlines and milestones for my goals. Find an accountability partner or mentor who can provide motivation and support. Regularly revisit and revise these action plans to stay engaged.
- Lack of Resources	Research free or low-cost resources, scholarships, or educational platforms. Seek support from mentors, professors, or employers for resource recommendations or financial assistance.
- Changes Priorities	- Periodically review and update my PDP - Create time to rest
- External Factors:	Be flexible and adaptable in my approach. Adjust this PDP as needed to accommodate unexpected changes.
- Lack of accountability partner	Find an accountability partner