

Brendon Matsikinya

757 332 0212 | Williamsburg, VA, USA | Authorized to work in the US under F-1 STEM OPT until 2028

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PERSONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity Analyst with 4+ years of experience in threat intelligence, penetration testing, and risk mitigation within the financial sector. Proven expertise in incident response, digital forensics, and network security, utilizing industry-leading tools such as Metasploit, Wireshark, and Burp Suite. I am skilled in cloud security (AWS, Azure), SIEM monitoring, and regulatory compliance (ISO 27001, PCI DSS). Adept at implementing data-driven cybersecurity strategies, leveraging Python, SQL, and machine learning to detect and mitigate threats proactively. I am currently pursuing a Master's in Business Analytics, specializing in machine learning and cybersecurity analytics. Seeking to apply technical acumen and analytical expertise in a cybersecurity role

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cybersecurity & Threat Intelligence: Penetration Testing, Incident Response, Threat Hunting, SIEM, Digital Forensics, PCI DSS Compliance
Network & Cloud Security: Microsoft Azure, AWS Security, VPN, IDS/IPS, Firewall Configurations, Network Forensics
Operating Systems & Tools: Linux (Kali, Ubuntu), Windows Server, Metasploit, Burp Suite, Wireshark, Splunk, Nessus
Programming & Tools: Python, SQL, Bash, R, PowerShell, Tableau, Power BI, Data Warehousing, Predictive Analytics

EXPERIENCE

Ai-Spark, Research Analyst

Hybrid, USA, Dec 2024 - Present

Researched key trends to deliver insights that improved decision-making and customer strategies (www.ai-spark.com)

- Engage in a variety of penetration testing assessments including network (internal and external), web application, wireless, red and purple team, physical, social engineering, and more
- Analyzed 1M+ security event logs using Google Open Source, identifying key trends and improving threat detection by 15%
- Built SQL-based dashboards in Tableau & Alteryx to track cybersecurity and IT performance

Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ Bank), Senior Systems Analyst

Zimbabwe, Dec 2023 - Aug 2024

Optimizing Payment Infrastructure, IT Systems & Digital Banking Security

- Managed and troubleshoot Postilion deployments, reducing downtime by 50% and ensuring 99.9% uptime for over 500,000 monthly transactions
- Led and executed key system integrations, including the OK Zim POS migration, accelerating transactions by 30% and securing \$1M+ in daily payments
- Delivered the ZiG New Currency Conversion upgrade, ensuring regulatory compliance and processing \$10M+ in daily transactions
- Integrated Treasury and Cash Management solutions, aligning with cross-border and real-time payments

Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ Bank), Data Analyst

Zimbabwe, Jul 2023 - Nov 2023

Ensured seamless banking system operations through technical support, vendor collaboration, and system optimization

- Designed and implemented database procedures to resolve transactional data failures, reducing system conflicts by 70%
- Partnered with the Legal team to analyze and mitigate fraudulent mobile app transactions, enhancing system security
- Handled the Business Requirement Documents, to easily bridge the gap between IT and Business, utilizing efficiency

ABC Holdings Limited (BancABC), Cyber Security Analyst

Zimbabwe, Sep 2022 - June 2023

Developed security systems to monitor threats and strengthened cybersecurity across nationwide branches

- Conducted ethical hacking, penetration testing, and vulnerability assessments using Metasploit and Burp Suite, identifying critical security gaps and mitigating potential breaches
- Implemented PCI DSS-aligned security policies with IT teams, boosting compliance by 20% and reducing violations by 15%

ABC Holdings Limited (BancABC), Technology Services Analyst

Zimbabwe, Jan 2020 - Aug 2022

Led an IT team and featured in analyzing BancABC systems and met the Service Level Agreement on all IT Channels

- Utilized Postilion, Splunk, and SolarWinds to monitor customer transactions, diagnose Response Code 91 (Timeouts), and maintain 24/7 card availability for seamless banking operations, ensuring 24/7 card availability and merchant payments
- Collaborated with developers to improve payments APIs, enhance real-time settlements and reconciliations

SELECTED CERTIFICATIONS

- ITIL® v4 (PeopleCert) - People Cert, (Other 21 certifications available upon request)
- ISO 27001 Foundation - SkillFront
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH Master & Practical) - EC-Council

EDUCATION

William & Mary, Raymond A. Mason School of Business

Williamsburg, VA

Master of Science, Business Analytics (MSBA)

Expected Graduation: May 2025

Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Optimization, Data Visualization, Heuristic Algorithms, Stochastic Modeling, Big Data, Databases Management (ETL Processes)

University of Zimbabwe

Harare, Zimbabwe

Major: Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Graduated: Dec 2021