Brendon Takudzwa Matsikinya

757 332 0212 | Williamsburg, VA, USA

https://github.com/brendon-tk | linkedin.com/in/brendon-t-matsikinya/ | brendonmatsikinya@gmail.com

---

OBJECTIVE

Cybersecurity professional with a strong interest in ethical hacking, penetration testing, vulnerability analysis, and network security. Hard-working, energetic, personable, and technical-minded individual. Currently in a cybersecurity role where I continue to develop and learn new abilities while contributing to the overall success of the organization. I also possess:

- Experience in scripting languages including Python and Bash.
- Excellent task management. Ability to handle multiple projects simultaneously.
- Experience with security toolkits such as Kali Linux, Metasploit, and Burp Suite Pro.
- Proficient in translating information from technical to executive/management terminology.

EDUCATION

William & Mary – MSBA, Business Analytics, Expected Graduation: May 2025

University of Zimbabwe – Bachelor's, Computer Science (Honors), Graduated: Dec 2021

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH Master & Practical) - EC Council
- IBM Cybersecurity Analyst Professional
- ISO 27001 Certified
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- ITIL Version 4 Certified
- Certified Network Security Specialist (CNSS)
- Linux 100 Certification

EXPERIENCE

Ai-Spark, Remote/Chicago, IL   December 2024 to Present
Cybersecurity Research Analyst
- 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.

CBZ Bank, Onsite/Zimbabwe, Harare   December 2023 to August 2024
Senior Systems Analyst
- Managed and troubleshot 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.
- Used Python for log analysis and SQL for data validation, reducing errors by 40%, enhancing fraud detection, and increasing efficiency by 20%.

CBZ Bank, Onsite/Zimbabwe, Harare   July 2023 to November 2023
Data Analyst
- Used Oracle Database and Postilion tools to analyze and troubleshoot system failures, reducing downtime by 50% and ensuring 99.9% uptime for 500K+ monthly transactions.
- Utilized Python, SQL, and Splunk for anomaly detection and transaction monitoring, securing $10M+ in daily transactions while enhancing system reliability by 20% and ensuring PCI DSS compliance.

BancABC, Onsite/Zimbabwe, Mt Pleasant   September 2022 to June 2023
Cybersecurity Analyst
- Leveraged Wireshark, Sophos, and Nmap for real-time threat detection, reducing security incidents by 35% and strengthening nationwide cybersecurity defenses.
- Conducted ethical hacking, penetration testing, and vulnerability assessments using Metasploit and Burp Suite, identifying critical security gaps and mitigating potential breaches.
- Aligned security policies with PCI DSS and NIST standards, enhancing compliance by 20%

and reducing violations by 15% through IAM best practices.
- Secured AWS cloud infrastructure and Active Directory environments, implementing intrusion detection systems (IDS) and access controls to mitigate cyber risks.

BancABC, Onsite/Zimbabwe, Mt Pleasant   January 2020 to August 2020
Technology Services Analyst
- Utilized Postilion, Splunk, and SolarWinds to monitor customer transactions, diagnose Response Code 91 (Timeouts), and maintain 24/7 card availability for seamless banking operations.
- Leveraged JIRA, ServiceNow, and Confluence to streamline issue tracking, collaborate with developers, and reduce system errors by 15%, improving IT service efficiency.
- Leveraged SQL, Machine Learning, and Tableau to analyze transaction patterns, detect anomalies, and optimize system performance—enhancing fraud detection, reducing downtime by 30%, and improving decision-making with real-time insights.

PROJECTS   **Ai-Spark (https://ai-sparkcom)**   December 2024 to Present
- Manage and secure AI-Spark's website through regular updates, internal & external penetration testing, and cybersecurity research, ensuring robust security and seamless user experience.

Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe (CBZ Bank)   July 2023 to August 2024
- OK Zimbabwe Integrated Point of Sale (POS) Migration, Post Office Payment System Stabilization and Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) New Currency Conversion - Upgraded payment infrastructure, optimized transaction processing, and ensured regulatory compliance, boosting speed, security, and reliability for $11M+ in daily transactions.
- CBZ Touch Mobile Banking Enhancement, Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) Bill Payment Optimization, Fraud Detection & Prevention - Enhanced mobile banking, optimized bill payments, and strengthened fraud detection, improving transaction efficiency, security, and customer experience.

ABC Holdings Limited (BanABC)   January 2020 to June 2023
- Real-Time Threat Detection & Incident Response, Enterprise Penetration Testing & Vulnerability Management, AWS Cloud Security Enhancement, PCI DSS Compliance - strengthened cybersecurity by implementing real-time threat detection, penetration testing, AWS cloud security, and PCI DSS compliance (BancABC Cards), reducing risks and enhancing system resilience.
- IT Ticketing System (Help Desk Support), Network Troubleshooting & System Efficiency, Service Delivery & Customer Satisfaction - developed an IT ticketing system with Peppermint, optimized network performance, and enhanced service delivery—, improving efficiency and customer satisfaction (**https://github.com/brendon-tk/IT-Help-Desk**).

GitHub
Ethical Hacker (GitHub)
- Develop and maintain open-source projects focused on cybersecurity, automation, data analysis, and machine learning, leveraging tools like Python, SQL, and cloud technologies to solve real-world challenges.

SKILLS   **Programming & Scripting:** Python, Bash, SQL, PowerShell
Cybersecurity Tool: Burp Suite, Wireshark, Splunk, Nmap, SNORT, SIEM, Microsoft Defender
Cloud & Infrastructure Security: AWS, IAM, IDS/IPS, Active Directory
Data Analysis & Visualization: Tableau, Power BI, Alteryx
Compliance & Frameworks: PCI DSS, NIST, ISO 27001, SOC 2, OWASP Top 10