Drake Axelrod

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Skills

Penetration Testing & Security Assessment: Web Applications, APIs, Network Security, Active Directory, IoT, Cloud Security (AWS, Azure, GCP)

Exploitation & Post-Exploitation: Privilege Escalation, Credential Dumping, Lateral Movement, Defense Evasion, Red Teaming, Command & Control (C2)

Operating Systems: Linux (Arch, Kali, Parrot, NixOS, Debian, Alpine), Windows, OSX, Android, iOS

Tools & Frameworks: BurpSuite, Metasploit, Sliver, Nmap, Wireshark, Nessus, Impacket, BloodHound, Responder

Scripting & Development: ShellScript, PowerShell, Python, C, C++, Lua, Java, Rust, Go, JavaScript, TypeScript, SQL, NoSQL, Haskell, Nix, Exploit Development, Reverse Engineering, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD, DevOps, Git, Scrum, Agile

Endpoint Security & Management: Intune Company Portal, Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR), Identity and Access Management (IAM)

Security Standards & Compliance: OWASP, MITRE ATT&CK, NIST Cybersecurity Framework, CVSS, CVE, CWE, CAPEC

Soft Skills & Communication: Technical Report Writing, Stakeholder Presentations, Collaboration, Security Training

Experience

Offensive Security Architect Consultant, QESTIT Malmö AB – Malmö, Skåne   Jul 2023 – Present

- Led security assessments for clients, identifying vulnerabilities and providing actionable remediation strategies.
- Performed assessments on multiple platforms including web applications, APIs, networks, IoT devices, Active Directory, and cloud environments.
- Identified and exploited misconfigurations, privilege escalation opportunities, and bypassed defenses to simulate real-world threats.
- Developed custom exploits and tools to enhance assessment capabilities.
- Trained and mentored junior team members in penetration testing methodologies, tools, and best practices.

Junior Penetration Tester, QESTIT Malmö AB – Malmö, Skåne   Jan 2023 – Jul 2023

- Performed in-depth vulnerability assessments by simulating real-world attacks to identify and mitigate security risks.
- Conducted exploit development and security automation to enhance the efficiency of security assessments.
- Automated the assessment reporting process, improving efficiency and accuracy.
- Communicated findings effectively to both technical and non-technical stakeholders, supporting informed security decisions.

Penetration Testing Intern, ADDQ 4 AB – Malmö, Skåne   Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

- Gained hands-on experience in real-world cybersecurity challenges under the guidance of industry professionals.
- Assisted with vulnerability assessments, penetration testing, and security audits.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to ensure security best practices were integrated into development processes.

Certificates

- **Multi-Cloud Red Teaming Analyst (MCRTA)** | CyberWarfare Labs | Mar 2025
- **Certified Penetration Testing Specialist (CPTS)** | Hack The Box | Jan 2025
- **CyberOps Associate** | Cisco | Aug 2021

Publications

K. Svensson, D. Axelrod, M. Mohamad, and R. Wohlrab, "Guidelines for Supporting Software Engineers in Developing Secure Web Applications," in Product-Focused Software Process Improvement, D. Pfahl, J. Gonzalez Huerta, J. Klünder, and H. Anwar, Eds., Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland, 2025, pp. 123-138. doi:10.1007/978-3-031-78386-9_9

Awards

Best Research Paper Award | PROFES 2024 – 25th International Conference on Product-Focused Software Process Improvement | Dec 2024

Education

University of Gothenburg – BSc in Software Engineering   Jun 2023

Santa Monica College – AA in Social and Behavioral Sciences   Dec 2015