

# Francis Alwyn Coomans

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## Cybersecurity Consultant (Offensive Security)

OSCP, CPTS, CWES | 25+ Years in IT & Security

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Location: Gauteng, South Africa (Open to Remote, or International Opportunities)

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## Professional Summary

Hands-on **Cybersecurity Consultant (Offensive Security)** with 25+ years in IT, recently transitioning from IT administration to **full-time offensive security**.

Skilled in **penetration testing, red teaming, Active Directory exploitation, and simulated security assessments**.

Ranked **Top 1% (Pro Hacker)** on Hack The Box and HTB Academy. Produces actionable **pentest-style write-ups** and technical **lessons learned** from complex environments.

Seeking **remote or international offensive security roles**.

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## Key Achievements

- Achieved **Bachelor of Commerce in Business Informatics (Cum Laude)** while working full-time.
  - Ranked **Top 1% globally** on Hack The Box ("Pro Hacker") and HTB Academy.
  - Completed **OSCP, CPTS, CWES** certifications through intensive practical labs and exams.
  - Successfully completed **50+ simulated penetration tests** on HTB lab environments, producing technical findings and **key lessons learned**.
  - Transitioned from enterprise IT to full-time offensive security consulting, combining operational knowledge with attacker insight.
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## Certifications

Certification	Provider	Year	Note
<b>Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP)</b>	Offensive Security	2025	
<b>Certified Penetration Testing Specialist (CPTS)</b>	Hack The Box	2024	
<b>Certified Web Exploitation Specialist (CWES)</b>	Hack The Box	2023	

Certification	Provider	Year	Note
<b>CompTIA PenTest+</b>	CompTIA	2024	
<b>CompTIA Security+</b>	CompTIA	2023	
<b>Mikrotik Certified Network Associate (MTCNA)</b>	Mikrotik	2017	<i>Expired, knowledge retained</i>
<b>Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE)</b>	Red Hat	2007	<i>Expired, knowledge retained</i>
<b>Linux Professional Institute Certified (LPIC-1)</b>	LPI	2007	<i>Expired, knowledge retained</i>

## Technical Skills

### Offensive Security & Pentesting:

SQL Injection (SQLi), Blind SQLi, XSS, Stored XSS, CSRF, SSRF, Command Injection, File Inclusion, File Upload Bypass, IDOR, Session Hijacking, Privilege Escalation, Lateral Movement, Enumeration, Web Fuzzing, Manual/Automated Web Exploitation, Server-Side Template Injection (SSTI), HTTP Verb Tampering, OWASP Top 10 exploitation, Burp Suite, Metasploit, Nmap, Wireshark, Ligolo-ng, SysReptor.

### Cybersecurity & Risk Management:

Vulnerability Assessment, Red Teaming, Endpoint Protection, Patch Management, Compliance Audits (Microsoft, Autodesk), Penetration Testing Methodologies, Threat Simulation.

### Systems & Infrastructure:

Active Directory, GPOs, Windows Server, Linux Administration, Microsoft 365, Hyper-V, Citrix XenServer, Server Administration, Virtualization, Internal IT Audits, IT Project Management.

### Networking & Security:

Routers, Switches, VLANs, Firewalls, VPNs, TCP/IP Suite, Network Security, Email Administration.

### Scripting & Automation:

Python, PowerShell, Bash.

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## Professional Experience

### Cybersecurity Consultant | Self-Directed Training

*Jun 2023 – Present*

- Earned **OSCP, CPTS, and CWES**, completing 70+ labs and demanding practical exams (OSCP 24h, CPTS 10d, CWES 7d).
- Completed **50+ simulated penetration tests** on HTB lab environments.

- Exploited vulnerabilities including **SQLi, XSS, CSRF, SSRF, Command Injection, Kerberoasting, Pivoting, Lateral Movement.**
- Produced professional **pentest-style write-ups** with technical findings and **key lessons learned / brief remediation suggestions.**
- Ranked **Pro Hacker (Top 1%)** on Hack The Box and **Top 1%** on HTB Academy.

## Group IT Administrator | ACTOM (Pty) Ltd – Gauteng, South Africa

*Leading energy manufacturing and engineering company with 500+ employees across 10+ sites.*

*Nov 1997 – Apr 2023*

- Led IT operations including **routers, switches, VLANs, firewalls, VPNs, and endpoints** across 10+ sites.
- Conducted vulnerability assessments (Greenbone/OpenVAS), enforced RBAC, and hardened Active Directory.
- Automated processes with **PowerShell, Python, Bash** to improve operational efficiency.
- Managed infrastructure projects including **server room build, virtualization (Hyper-V/XenServer), and Office 365 migration.**
- Oversaw internal audits and vendor compliance (Microsoft, Autodesk).

## Finance Clerk | Reumech/Reutech Head Office – Gauteng, South Africa

*Defense manufacturer, part of a holding company.*

*1997*

- Prepared daily cash flow reports and reconciliations.

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## Education

### Bachelor of Commerce in Business Informatics (Cum Laude) | University of South Africa

*2018 – 2021*

- Graduated with 25 distinctions.
- Coursework: Databases, Networks, Programming, Project Management, Internal Auditing.

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## References

Available upon request.