Jackson McCullough

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Summary

Currently a Junior at Indiana University Kokomo, graduating in December, 2026. Dedicated to pursuing a career in cybersecurity with a focus to become a Security Engineer.

Education & Certifications

Indiana University Kokomo, B.S. in Computer Science, Minor Mathematics   Aug 2023 – Dec 2026

- Major GPA: 3.72/4.0
- **Taken Computer Science Courses:** Problem Solving using Computers, Programming(Java/OOP)I&II, Programming Languages, Computer Structures, Data Mine Applications, Client-Server Web Programming
- **Currently Enrolled in:** Fundamentals of Computing Theory, System Analysis and Design, Data Structures and Algorithms

Certifications: CompTIA Security+, Google Cybersecurity Professional, ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC)

Experience

Assistant/Lead instructor, BlackRocket Organization – Indianapolis, IN   May 2025 - Aug 2025

- Teaching web development(HTML/CSS/JavaScript), video game development (Godot) to kids ages 6-12

Programming tutor, Indiana University Kokomo – Kokomo, IN   Jan 2025 – Current

- Help students in a one-on-one environment with programming. Specializing in java, but also help with PHP, Python, SQL
- Return on individual assignments resulted in B+ or higher on every assignment I personally helped with

Security Researcher, Indiana University Kokomo – Kokomo, IN   Jan 2025 – Current

- Conducting ongoing research on applying game-theoretic approaches and solutions to enhance the cybersecurity of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and theoretically justify best solutions, with Dr. Aakif Mairaj (Supervisor)

Projects(Full Reports on Website)

Malware Analysis   www.jacksonxsec.com

- Used multiple tools popular in the security world in a self-hosted malware lab to statically and dynamically analyze different malware

Vulnerability Management for a Target Machine

- Conducted machine vulnerability assessments using Nessus, and nmap, while also giving possible solutions for each vulnerability, with the best way to manage them

Brute-Force Attack Detection using Splunk & Fail2ban

- Launched a simulated brute-force attack using hydra, detected with splunk enterprise(and created visualizations for a dashboard), and created rules and filters using fail2Ban

Creation, Detection, and Defense against Ransomware

- Personally created ransomware that encrypted "sensitive files" on an endpoint. Detected the attack, contained, and eradicated the attack using SIEM and application control tools such as Wazuh and Windows Defender Application Control (WDAC).

Technical Skills

Languages: C, PHP, Java, Python, SQL, JavaScript, HTML, Bash

Tools: Suricata, Nessus, Splunk, Wireshark, Nikto, Wazuh, nmap, and related pentesting & forensic tools.

Operating Systems: Windows; Linux distributions including Kali, Ubuntu, and REMnux (specialized for malware analysis & forensics)

Leadership & Involvement

IU Kokomo Esports(Captain): Captain of the Rocket League team since freshman year, creating game plans and strategies that have led the team far into playoffs each season, nearly undefeated each season

Computing club(Vice President): Responsible for creating example projects, teaching languages, and providing hands-on support to members for their projects or activities they are participating in

Association of Student Athletes (ASA): Nominated as an athlete to represent Esports on ASA. Responsible for creating activities and events that bring the community and sports at IUK together. As well as finding way to tie all sports together to create a stronger athletic community

School of Sciences Student Advisory Board: One of five students selected by the Dean of Students to represent the School of Sciences, with the responsibility to advocate for peers and propose initiatives that improve student life