David Banson

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ABOUT ME

Compliance-focused professional with a Master's in International Affairs and a strong foundation in policy, regulation, and cybersecurity risk. Skilled in policy analysis, cross-cultural communication, and hands-on GRC practices through lab simulations and industry certifications. Currently transitioning into a Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) analyst role, with a commitment to helping organizations strengthen their risk posture and regulatory readiness.

CERTIFICATION

- Google Cybersecurity Certificate

EDUCATION

Northeastern University – Boston, MA   Graduated: May 2024
MA in International Affairs
Relevant Coursework: Principles of Public Administration, Techniques of Policy Analysis, Research Methods in Social Sciences, Global Governance

- Researched and wrote a paper on *"Public Service Values in the Biden Administration's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)"*, evaluating the program's alignment with core principles such as equity, transparency, and digital inclusion. Developed policy analysis and regulatory evaluation skills highly relevant to governance, compliance, and risk oversight.
- Authored a policy research paper titled *"Disparities in Broadband Access Across Worcester, Massachusetts: The Way Forward"*, analyzing digital inequality, infrastructure gaps, and proposing data-driven recommendations to enhance equitable access — reinforcing core competencies in regulatory research, risk analysis, and policy development.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apple – Natick, MA   August – October 2024
Seasonal Specialist
- Delivered personalized product recommendations and solutions, building rapport with customers to drive long-term loyalty.
- Partnered with team members to optimize service flow and improve the in-store customer journey.
- Consistently stayed informed on Apple's latest offerings to ensure accurate, timely, and engaging communication with customers.

African Community Education (ACE) – Worcester, MA   April – October 2024
ESOL Teacher
- Supported educational and social development of African and Caribbean immigrant youth through structured lessons and mentorship.
- Promoted inclusive learning and cultural awareness through creative community outreach and cultural exchange events.
- Strengthened leadership and collaboration by co-facilitating youth development workshops.

TCL Ghana Limited – Accra, Ghana   October 2020 - April 2021
Customer Service Representative
- Handled high-volume phone support and inquiries, providing real-time technical assistance to over 100 customers daily.
- Converted 10+ online leads daily into successful product sales via company website and social media platforms.
- Maintained accurate records, managed inventory, and supported backend operations to ensure excellent customer service.

Ghana Association of Japanese Language Teachers (GAJALT) – Accra, Ghana   January - December 2019
Student Coordinator & Volunteer Instructor
- Facilitated monthly leadership meetings and organized language workshops and social events.
- Designed and led Japanese language instruction for beginners, supporting peer engagement and group learning.
- Co-created an online forum for student discussion and knowledge exchange, fostering community-building.

PROJECTS & PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Active Directory & Detection Lab (Home Lab Simulation)
Followed MYDFIR's YouTube series to build a detection lab simulating real-world attacks. Deployed Active Directory, configured Splunk for log ingestion, and used Kali Linux and Atomic Red Team to generate attack telemetry for SIEM analysis.

Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC) Training Program
Completed Dr. Gerald Auger's comprehensive GRC Analyst Master Class, gaining practical knowledge of security frameworks (NIST, ISO 27001), risk management, and compliance processes. Reinforced key concepts through hands-on labs focused on security assessments, control evaluation, and policy development.

Cybersecurity Blog & Thought Leadership (Medium)
Created and actively maintain a personal blog on Medium to document my journey into GRC, share technical writeups, and publish security research. Focused on translating complex cybersecurity concepts into accessible, insightful content for beginners and professionals alike. Notably, my article "***TryHackMe vs Hack The Box: A Beginner's Guide*" garnered over 12.3K views and 8.1K reads**, demonstrating strong engagement and thought leadership.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Technical Skills: NIST Cybersecurity Framework (CSF), ISO/IEC 27001, Risk Assessment, Policy & Procedure Development, Splunk, Kali Linux, Active Directory, Virtual Box, Microsoft Office Suite, Canva, Squarespace
Soft Skills: Analytical Thinking, Attention to Detail, Written Communication, Research & Policy Analysis, Cross-cultural Collaboration
Interests: Cybersecurity Policy, Tech Product Reviews, Photography & Videography, Travel, Emerging Technologies