James Olson started his career as a technical support specialist with an ISP (Cablevision). Throughout my career I slowly moved into the networking field of IT. During this time, I found myself handling PPI and highly confidential material. For the most part it was basic practice to protect and limit access to authorized users. Over the years, I experienced high level incidents, including data loss, Crypto virus attacks, and deep embedded hacking. It became clear a lot of the environment, that is network related, worked hand and hand with cybersecurity. After a multitude of network training, programming, it became clear the next step was cybersecurity. With a strong passion in ethics, hardening the already relevant skills with a security background was needed. After the goal was reached, the hope is to continue to learn, as there is always more to experience. And the only way to do so is hand on, while advancing my career with a long term role I can grow into.

Strengths -

* **Network Engineering & Infrastructure Design**: 11+ years of experience configuring and optimizing Cisco IOS, Palo Alto firewalls, Cisco and Aruba wireless, SDI experience, and enterprise networking solutions.
* **Security & Threat Management**: Hands-on work with Palo Alto Panorama, ISE, and Splunk for monitoring, threat prevention, and incident response using ITIL format.
* **Problem-Solving & Systems Thinking**: Proven ability to resolve complex network and security issues (e.g., 20% downtime reduction at Sappi NA). Real time experience with Hacking incidents and enterprise lock down and islanding.

Values -

* **Protecting organizations and people:** ensuring secure, reliable networks that safeguard data and enable critical operations (ties to confidentiality, integrity, availability from the **CIA triad** ).
* **Commitment to resilience and ethical security practices**: ensuring continuity of operations and upholding security ethics and Laws.

Questions -

1. What excites you most: threat detection, building secure infrastructures, and proactive risk assessments.
2. How do you want to position yourself: as a Network Engineer I want to bridge my infrastructure experience and enhance my security background. In this day and age, security and networking go hand and hand. With AI SIEM tools on the rise, it's crucial to be as adaptable as possible.