

José António Portela Areia

jose.apareia@gmail.com | github.com/joseareia | linkedin.com/in/joseareia

Professional Summary

Cybersecurity engineer with 3+ years of research experience in securing AI-driven systems, networks, applications, and IoT solutions, and over 2 years of experience in higher education teaching and project management. Strong team collaborator, detail-oriented, and highly skilled in delivering complex and multidisciplinary projects to successful outcomes.

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Java, JavaScript, Bash, PHP, MySQL, Lua

Security Tools: Wireshark, Metasploit, Burp Suite, Nessus, Nmap, Wazuh

Security Practices: Risk Analysis, Vulnerability Assessment, Incident Response, Penetration Testing

Technologies and Frameworks: Linux, Docker, Git, Git Actions (CI/CD), PyTorch, TensorFlow, Scikit-Learn

Work Experience

Cybersecurity & AI Researcher, Computer Science and Communication Research Centre Feb 2022 – Sept 2025

- Created an innovative multi-objective generative model framework that can generate adversarial images, achieving an evasion success rate of up to 93% against as many as 5 distinct models.
- Developed AI-driven models for intrusion detection systems in the medical domain, achieving up to 97% accuracy in detecting malicious traffic across ten commonly used attack types.
- Researched vulnerabilities in ML models, focusing on privacy, security, and robustness against adversarial attacks.
- Developed IoT simulations for smart city and medical applications, including attack scenarios and traffic analysis.
- Published peer-reviewed research articles presenting key findings, methodologies, and openly available datasets.

Invited Assistant Professor, Polytechnic University of Leiria Aug 2023 – Sept 2025

- Taught Cybersecurity and Computer Networks, simplifying complex security concepts for diverse student groups.
- Supervised bachelor theses, guiding students through research and applied security projects.
- Led academic projects, showcasing leadership, organisation, and the successful delivery of multidisciplinary projects.

Full Stack Developer, Estudar Portugal Feb 2019 – Feb 2021

- Built and secured a Laravel-based HR and finance platform with authentication and data protection controls.
- Designed application data models and interfaces with a security-by-design mindset.
- Introduced and led adoption of the Scrumban methodology, improving efficiency and cross-functional teamwork.

Projects & Scientific Publications

Balancing Image Quality and Attack Effectiveness in Multi-Objective Adversarial Image Generation

- Developed a Python-based multi-objective adversarial GAN framework achieving a 93% fooling rate across 5 models.
- Work internationally awarded and published in the [ACM KDD 2025](#) conference.

Fooling Rate and Perceptual Similarity: A Study on DCGAN-based Adversarial Attacks

- Conducted a study using AI-based tools and frameworks on DCGAN behaviour in adversarial sample generation.
- Paper published and presented at the [ARES 2025](#) cybersecurity conference.

IoMT-TrafficData: Dataset and Tools for Benchmarking Intrusion Detection in IoMT

- Built a real-world IoMT environment and ML-based IDS dataset, achieving 97% accuracy in detecting malicious traffic.
- Paper published in [IEEE Access](#) and dataset on [Zenodo](#) (400+ downloads and 3000+ views).

Dvorak: A Browser Credential Dumping Malware

- Developed a Python-based malware that extracts and decrypts web-stored passwords from 5 major browsers.
- Work published and presented at the [SECURITY 2024](#) cybersecurity conference.

Education

Polytechnic University of Leiria, MSc Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Sept 2023 – Sept 2025

- Grade: 18/20

Polytechnic University of Leiria, BSc Computer Engineering Sept 2020 – Jul 2023

- Grade: 16/20

Polytechnic University of Leiria, Short Cycle (TeSP) Web Development and Multimedia Sept 2018 – Jul 2020

- Grade: 20/20 — *Awarded Merit Student*