

Information Security Professional

I am a results-driven professional with a security-first mindset and proven track record of aligning cybersecurity initiatives with broader business objectives. I have skills at embedding security architecture early in system development lifecycle to proactively manage risk, while supporting innovation and agility. I am adept at translating complex security concepts for executive and cross-functional stakeholders, driving adoption of key security initiatives across organization. I was recognized for mentoring junior engineers, leading diverse teams, and fostering a collaborative culture of security awareness. I have deep expertise in regulatory frameworks, including NIST CSF, ISO 27001/2, GDPR, DORA, FedRAMP, SOX and HIPAA, with commitment to designing compliant, scalable, and resilient cybersecurity solutions.

Areas of Expertise

- Security Awareness & Training
- Third-Party Security Evaluations
- Incident Response & Analysis
- Cybersecurity Policy Development
- Identity & Access Management
- Secure Architecture Design
- Risk Assessment & Mitigation
- Application and Container Security
- Business Continuity Planning
- Penetration Testing
- Disaster Recovery Planning
- Regulatory Standards Compliance

Technical Proficiencies

Operating Systems: Windows | Linux

Security Tools: Tenable Nessus | Qualys | Nmap | Burp Suite | Metasploit | ZScaler | Terraform | AWS GuardDuty | Okta | CycloneDX

Cybersecurity Standards: ISO 27001 | NIST Cybersecurity Framework | PCI DSS | OWASP | HIPAA | GDPR | SOX | FISMA | FERPA | Cloud Security Alliance (CCM)

Cloud Computing: Azure | AWS

Software: Knowbe4 | Sharepoint | Concur | PowerBI | Tableau | Jira | SQL Server | Azure Active Directory

Network Security Tools: Wireshark | EDR | Firewall

Scripting Language: Powershell | Python

SIEM Tools: QRadar | ArcSight | Microsoft Sentinel | Alien Vault OSIMM

Career Experience

St. Cloud State University, Minnesota

01/2024 – 12/2024

Information Security Researcher Analyst, Information Assurance Department

I conducted research to uncover current cybersecurity trends and identified vulnerabilities in information systems. I supported the performance of risk assessments and translated complex security concepts into actionable insights for key stakeholders. I developed cybersecurity training contents, organized threat data, and contributed to the improvement of security processes and awareness initiatives. I collaborated with other technology teams with a proactive approach to problem-solving and a passion for strengthening organizational security posture through continuous learning and research.

- I investigated emerging threats, vulnerabilities, and attack vectors across systems, networks, and applications to inform proactive defense strategies.
- I performed continuous threat assessments and vulnerability analyses, while translating technical findings into actionable reports for security teams and key stakeholders.
- I communicated cybersecurity research findings through detailed reports, presentations, and threat intelligence briefings tailored to technical and non-technical audiences.

Cybersecurity Intern (Experienced Track) – Cyber Resilience, Adobe Inc., New York

03/2024 – 08/2024

I conducted thorough reviews of information security policies, standards, and guidelines to ensure continuous alignment with industry and regulatory standards. Assess cybersecurity controls to verify compliance with PCI DSS and ISO 27001 requirements. Review and enhance Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans to bolster cyber resilience and data protection for critical systems. Execute

regular cyber risk assessments and third-party evaluations to enhance cybersecurity efforts. Collaborate with contractors to refine the Enterprise Resiliency framework, ensuring robust protection against potential disruptions.

- Contributed to evaluation of third-party security compliance, improving third-party risk scoring accuracy by 25%.
- Assisted in planning and executing tabletop cyberattack simulations, engaging cross-functional teams in testing business continuity and disaster recovery processes.
- Enhanced business continuity and disaster recovery plans by aligning critical business functions with IT and vendor dependencies to improve cyber disruption preparedness.
- Conducted risk assessments on security vulnerabilities in critical systems, leading to actionable remediation measures within Adobe's enterprise resilience strategy.

Ericsson Inc., EMEA Office, Accra
Information Security Architect

01/2022 – 12/2023

I developed and enforced information security policies, standards, and guidelines to maintain compliance with industry regulations and standards. I designed and implemented an Identity Access Management (IAM) system leveraging on Okta which reduced the number of unauthorized accesses to critical systems and sensitive data. Partnered with cross-functional teams to uncover cybersecurity vulnerabilities and recommended enhancements to security controls. I conducted penetration testing, application security reviews, container security and vulnerability assessments to detect and address system weaknesses. Liaised with software engineers to incorporate application security measures across the software development lifecycle leveraging on the CI/CD pipelines. Lastly, I conducted investigations into access-related incidents, monitored suspicious activities, and collaborated with IT teams to resolve IAM-related vulnerabilities or audit findings.

- Architected secure hybrid cloud infrastructure by utilizing Zero Trust principles, reducing 40% cloud vulnerabilities.
- Define and enforce user access policies, conduct access reviews, and ensure compliance with regulatory and organizational security requirements (e.g., least privilege, RBAC/ABAC).
- Facilitated secure SDLC practices across multiple product teams by integrating security architecture within DevOps pipelines.
- Enhanced detection and response through integration with SIEM and SOAR platforms by collaborating with SOC.
- I developed, implemented, and managed identity and access management systems, including authentication, authorization, and directory services.
- Reduced privilege escalation risks by designing risk-based identity and access management model using role-based access control.

Vodafone Inc., West Africa, Accra
Senior Information Security Auditor

07/2021 – 01/2022

I ensured the execution of comprehensive IT audit plans, aligning timelines to strategic audit objectives. Conducted in-depth assessments of IT General Controls and Application Controls to identify and mitigate IT risks for enhanced security posture. Examined networks, applications, and database security controls to uncover critical vulnerabilities that required immediate attention. Carried out application security reviews to pinpoint weaknesses in web-based applications, reinforcing security protocols. Delivered regular security updates for effectively communicating IT audit and cybersecurity findings to management and board to influence decision-making.

- Boosted auditor productivity by 20% by streamlining audit processes with data analytics and automation tools.
- Drove 25% improvement in audit remediation timelines through strategic risk identification and management.
- Achieved compliance with GDPR, ISO 27001, and PCI-DSS, securing regulatory audits with no major non-conformities.
- Strengthened cloud governance controls following audits of Vodafone's cloud deployments, addressing misconfigurations and policy breaches.
- Conducted post-incident reviews to identify root causes of security events, recommending control improvements to prevent future incidents.

World Vision International, EMEA Office, Accra
Senior Information Security Auditor

01/2019 – 06/2021

I implemented a comprehensive annual IT audit plan that highlighted critical risks within IT systems, leading to development of strategic solutions. Conducted thorough IT General control and SOX audits for implementing cost-effective security controls. Engaged with management to identify IT risks influencing business objectives and conducted network and application security reviews that pinpointed vulnerabilities. Ensured consistent follow-up on cybersecurity weaknesses to drive execution of necessary controls. Managed audit of cloud-based applications to enable standardized secure deployment practices.

- Increased audit efficiency and alignment with vital operations by developing global risk-based audit strategy.
- Delivered targeted security audit training, empowering regional leads and reducing follow-up issues by 40%.

- Identified and mitigated weak security controls in high-risk locations, leading to 20% reduction in incident rates.
- Audited third-party vendors for security compliance, ensuring adherence to data protection and confidentiality standards.

First Atlantic Bank, Accra
Information Systems Auditor

09/2016 – 01/2019

I performed comprehensive audits of IT General and Application controls to ensure regulatory compliance and enhance cybersecurity posture. Audited key business applications and infrastructure to identify and address cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Managed network and application security reviews to pinpoint potential risks and develop mitigation strategies. Facilitated ongoing follow-up on IT findings, implementing approved recommendations that effectively reduced IT risks.

- Executed evaluations of security protocols, achieving certification and re-certification of ISO 27001 and PCI DSS standards.
- Strengthened IT General Controls across infrastructure and processes, enhancing audit readiness and reducing operational risks.
- Audited systems managing donor financial and PII data, leading to the implementation of robust encryption, access control, and retention policies.
- Developed executive-level security audit reports that prioritized risks and provided clear, actionable recommendations, influencing funding for cybersecurity improvements.
- Recommended technical and procedural controls to fill gaps in network security and endpoint protection, achieving 30% improvement in cybersecurity audit scores.

Qualtek Ghana Ltd, Accra
Application Support Officer

09/2014 – 08/2016

I delivered timely technical support by accurately diagnosing and resolving user-reported issues for effective troubleshooting and guidance. Collaborated with technology product and development teams to identify and report bugs, share valuable insights, and suggest enhancements based on customer feedback and recurring problems. Served as main customer support contact via email, chat, and phone to resolve product-related concerns promptly, while upholding high standards of customer service. Documented customer interactions and solutions systematically to escalate more complex issues to Tier 2 support for further troubleshooting as needed. Facilitated seamless user onboarding and training by offering clear instructions and addressing inquiries to ensure a smooth, positive user experience.

- Improved system response time by 40% through identification and resolution of performance bottlenecks in core enterprise applications.
- Achieved 95% resolution rate within SLA by handling 50+ user support tickets weekly, significantly boosting user satisfaction and productivity.
- Reduced unplanned downtime by 25% through proactive monitoring of application logs and server health, adeptly identifying early warning signs.
- Enhanced application security by working with the IT security team to enforce role-based access control, minimizing unauthorized data access risks.
- Managed successful rollout of major software upgrades with minimal downtime, ensuring seamless transitions and preventing critical incidents post-upgrade.

Education & Certifications

Master of Science in Information Assurance, Cybersecurity, St. Cloud State University, USA

Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Methodist University College, Ghana

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals

Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)

Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)

Certified as ISO 27001:2013 Lead Auditor

Certified as ISO 27001:2013 Lead Implementer

Oracle Certified Associate