

La Shauna E. Nichols

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Security-minded software and infrastructure engineer with 12+ years building and securing SaaS systems. Experienced in cloud security, AppSec, and compliance automation (SOC 2, SIEM, AWS IAM, vulnerability scanning). Transitioning into a dedicated security engineering or AppSec role.

Work Experience

WYL | New York, NY

Chief Product & Technology Officer | September 2024 – May 2025

- Implemented SOC 2 readiness using Datadog and Splunk to establish real-time alerting and log correlation pipelines
- Integrated security-by-design practices into engineering workflows (linting, code reviews, dependency scans)
- Designed access-control model and data governance policies aligning with NIST and ISO 27001 frameworks

Kaskara | Palo Alto, CA

Senior Engineering Manager | November 2023 – September 2024

- Deployed GCP IAM least-privilege model for healthcare data pipelines
- Automated infrastructure scanning with Trivy and custom CI/CD scripts
- Collaborated with DevOps to enforce container image hardening and secrets rotation

Scratch | Boston, MA

Senior Engineering Manager/Head of Infrastructure | February 2021 – November 2023

- Migrated legacy workloads to AWS with improved security groups, IAM roles, and encryption policies.
- Created incident response runbooks and cloud posture dashboards.
- Conducted internal threat modeling sessions with product and engineering teams.

McKesson | San Francisco, CA

Senior Software Engineer | October 2017 – December 2020

- Developed enterprise apps with Angular, Java, and Spring Boot, Node + ExpressJS
- Re-architected APIs for performance and security, enhancing scalability
- Mentored 6+ junior devs in Agile coding practices and test-driven development

Levi Strauss | San Francisco, CA

Senior Software Engineer | June 2017 – October 2017

- Contract via Agility Systems
- Created robust search and mapping features using Google Maps API
- Partnered with product team to define scalable frontend solutions in Angular

G2 Integrated Solutions, Inc. | Concord, CA

Software Engineer/Hybrid App Developer | January 2015 – December 2017

- Delivered cross-platform apps for PG&E and major utilities (iOS, Android, web)
- Built responsive web UIs and backend services in JavaScript and C#
- Deployed 2+ iOS apps for field services by tailoring each for utility among energy providers, adopted by PG&E, Southwest Gas, Nevada Power, and other major utility companies

University of the Pacific | Stockton, CA

Web Developer | June 2012 – January 2015

- Developed frontend solutions and SharePoint workflows for campus-wide systems
- Led weekly technical planning across IT and Marketing departments
- Position started out as a contract through Robert Half the merged to permanent
- Delivered responsive and engaging user interface for the University of the Pacific website in Ingeniux CMS by handling all front-end web development to augment user experience

Apple | Elk Grove, CA

Desktop Support Technician | March 2009 – November 2010

- Contract via Volt. Provided frontline technical support for macOS and iOS devices in a high-volume environment
- Diagnosed and resolved hardware and software issues on Macs, iPads, and networking equipment
- Assisted users with operating system upgrades, device configurations, and data migrations
- Maintained backup systems and helped implement local data recovery procedures
- Collaborated with Apple Genius Bar and back-end teams for ticket resolution and customer satisfaction
- Gained foundational experience with system imaging, remote troubleshooting tools, and Apple enterprise support protocols

Security Projects & Labs

Cloud Security Lab: Built AWS sandbox to practice IAM, S3 bucket policy hardening, and VPC isolation.

AppSec Automation: Developed Python toolchain integrating bandit, trivy, and zap-cli for CI/CD scanning

Vulnerability Testing: Performed ethical testing using Nmap, Burp Suite, and SQLMap on staging environments

SIEM & Detection: Configured Splunk dashboards to visualize suspicious login patterns and privilege escalations

Skills & Technologies

Security & Compliance: SOC 2, ISO 27001, SIEM (Datadog, Splunk), vulnerability scanning, network analysis (Nmap, Wireshark), OWASP Top 10, IAM, Linux hardening, GRC frameworks

Cloud & DevOps: AWS, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, CloudTrail, CloudWatch, VPC, EC2, S3

Programming: Python, JavaScript/TypeScript, Node.js, Java, Django, React, Next.js

Databases: MongoDB, PostgreSQL, MySQL, DynamoDB

Tools: GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Trivy, Bandit, Burp Suite, Nikto, Metasploit

Operating Systems: Linux (Ubuntu, Kali), Windows Server

Education

M.S. Information Technology – Colorado Technical University (2012)

M.S. Computer Science – Colorado Technical University (*Cybersecurity focus - Est. Graduation: June 2026*)

B.S. Business Administration – Colorado Technical University (2008)

Certifications

Certificate in IBM Watson Generative & Foundational AI | IBM Watson Education