

Lucas Howard

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Summary

Cybersecurity-focused data engineer with a strong background in cloud analytics, threat intelligence, and secure data pipelines. Proven success in automating incident response and transforming unstructured data into actionable insights using Python, Spark, and Databricks. Adept at architecting scalable systems that bridge the gap between cyber defense and data engineering.

Education

MS Western Governors University, Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

- Excellence Award for Secure Network Design

Experience

Nike, Inc., Senior Cyber Defense Incident Data Analyst (FTE)

Remote

Jan 2023 – present

- Designed automated data pipelines to process breach-related logs and security telemetry, reducing incident triage time by 50%.
- Built internal Python packages and Jupyter notebooks to standardize security data workflows and reduce onboarding time.
- Replaced AWS EMR with Databricks notebooks for credential stuffing analysis, enhancing analytics performance and maintainability.
- Spearheaded migration of unstructured data workflows in-house using Docker, saving the company \$1M per incident.
- Applied risk-based prioritization to log analysis pipelines, improving detection speed and reducing manual review by 90%.

Nike, Inc., Cyber Defense Data Analyst (ETW)

Remote

Oct 2021 – Jan 2023

- Reduced credential stuffing response time by 50% via optimized PySpark jobs on AWS EMR.
- Built Grafana dashboards from PostgreSQL to deliver real-time analytics to cyber defense stakeholders.
- Contributed to security metrics framework development across departments, aligning data strategy with incident response KPIs.

L&E Research, Director of IT/AV and Security

Raleigh, NC

July 2019 – Oct 2021

- Led enterprise IT operations and security across 11 locations, supporting over 300 users.
- Implemented security automation, reducing phishing click-through rates by 50%.
- Built secure cloud-based video streaming platform on AWS Media Services, ensuring data confidentiality and compliance.

North Carolina National Guard, B Battery, 5-113th Field Artillery, 25B Information Technology Specialist

Aug 2018 – July 2019

- Automated access workflows using Python, improving provisioning speed for 120+ personnel.
- Deployed and maintained secure communications during Operation Inherent Resolve.
- Enlisted NC National Guard Jun 2014 - Jun 2020. Highest rank achieved: E4 SPC.

XPO Logistics, Network Administrator

- Built internal web-based tools for network configuration, reducing deployment time.
- Managed Cisco routers/switches and enhanced network segmentation and monitoring.

High Point, NC
Mar 2018 – Aug 2018

Certifications

- ISC2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- ISC2 Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)
- ISACA Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
- IAPP Certified Information Privacy Technologist (CIPT)
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Cisco Certified CyberOps Associate
- CompTIA A+, Cloud+, Network+, Security+, Project+, Linux+, Server+, Pentest+, CySA+, SecurityX
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

Technologies

Data Engineering: Python, SQL, Pandas, Pyspark, Jupyter Notebooks, Databricks, Snowflake

Cybersecurity & Monitoring: Splunk, Grafana, Qualys, Sophos, SecurityX

DevOps & Cloud: Docker, Git, AWS, Azure

Skills

- Secure Data Pipeline Development
- Threat Detection and Automation
- Incident Response and Forensics
- Cloud Analytics (AWS, Azure)
- Cross-Team Collaboration and Mentoring
- Strong Written and Verbal Communication
- Infrastructure as Code and Automation
- Metrics-Driven Decision Making