

Lucas Ball

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Experience

Oregon State University / Nuclear Regulatory Committee - Graduate Research Assistant

April 2023 - June 2023; Oregon State University, OR

- Created models for understanding nuclear reactor security
- Analyzed and built threat models of specific nuclear reactors.
- Utilized export restricted software to generate threat models and attack simulations

Oregon State University - Graduate Teaching Assistant

September 2022 - March 2023; Oregon State University, OR

- (Operating Systems) Resolved problems with student code using debugging software
- (Cyber Attacks and Defence) Taught students best practices for binary exploitation
- (Cyber Attacks and Defence) Created challenges for students to practice binary exploitation skills

OPeNS Lab at Oregon State University - Project Lead / Programmer

November 2020 - January 2022; Oregon State University, OR

- Utilized Arduino project boards to create environmental sensing devices
- Used GitHub to organize project management and collaborate to solve software problems on research projects
- Collaborated with project team to solve Hardware/software development problems resulting in the deployment of multiple environmental research projects
- Programmed Ethernet, Cellular, and WiFi network configurations alongside HTTP/SSL communication.
- Configured long distance hardware communications such as LoRa, nRF and Freewave Radio

Orengo Systems Inc. — Electrical Engineering Intern

June - September (2017, 2018, 2019); Sutherlin, OR

- Designed and printed circuit boards using Altium PCB design software
- Successfully developed and implemented a device to test circuit boards for quality control and manufacturing defects
- Designed digital logic programs for custom products

Orengo Systems Inc. — Information Technology Intern

June - September (2015, 2016); Sutherlin, OR

- Used integrated software to conduct data entry for products in order for the IT team to track devices
- Tested in-production web pages for quality control and software bugs
- Maintained IT hardware by cleaning and repairing parts

Education

Oregon State University Computer Science, MS; 2022 - 2024 (Anticipated).

Oregon State University Bachelor of Science in Computer Science (Cyber Security Focus), BS; 2017 - 2022.

Achievements

NSA Codebreaker challenge High performer, 2021.

- Analyzed website code to find vulnerabilities and exploit them
- Analyzed packet dumps and vpn logs for anomalies
- Conducted digital forensics on filesystem images to locate malware
- Reverse engineered malware written in C++ to find communication encryption details

Defcon CTF Finalist, 2022.

- Reverse engineered complex custom binaries to find vulnerabilities utilizing tools such as Ghidra and GDB
- Wrote scripts to exploit vulnerabilities within the challenge programs
- Built network infrastructure to provide 30+ team members access to competition network
- Managed 10+ endpoints to support heavy computational needs and network infrastructure
- Analyzed network traffic to discover exploit code used by attackers

Pacific Rim Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition 1st place, 2022.

- Lead a team of students in defending 20+ endpoints against an active red team
- Utilized Bash scripting to secure linux hosts during engagement
- Created documentation for Linux initial access lockdown, operating system hardening, and incident response

Collegiate Penetration Testing Competition West 3rd place, 2022.

- Lead a team of 6 students conducting vulnerability assessment and penetration testing in a simulated business network
- Utilized initial access techniques to gain access to various endpoints
- Established persistent administrative access in Active Directory successfully exfiltrating simulated PII
- Synthesized findings into an extensive 50 page penetration test report, all within 24 hours.

National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition 5th place, 2022.

- Competed against the top 10 universities in the nation to defend 20+ endpoints from active red team operations
- Analyzed Linux endpoints for vulnerabilities and developed patches for them
- Tracked down and eliminated custom built, polymorphic, Go obfuscated, multi-binary malware utilizing novel techniques within the linux ecosystem

Extracurricular

Oregon State Security Club Lab Manager

- Rebuilt club infrastructure to use on-premise hardware
- Managed 20+ endpoints including aws servers, virtual machines, and custom routers
- Developed on-demand access capabilities for 15+ students to practice various cybersecurity skills
- Wrote documentation and guides to help future lab managers maintain the infrastructure
- Gave multiple presentations about various topics in cybersecurity

Oregon State Linux Users Group Vice President

- Presented various topics to the club to further knowledge on the linux operating system