Maria Sala

Security Analyst | SOC & Incident Response | AI & IT Operations

Currently based in Perth, Australia

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity Analyst with a strong operational background in SOC-style incident analysis, monitoring and response, supported by over 10 years of experience in IT operations and technical environments.

Proven experience in incident detection, triage, analysis, containment and remediation, including phishing attempts, authentication attacks and suspicious network activity.

Currently expanding expertise in Artificial Intelligence, with a focus on applied AI, automation and data-driven analysis to enhance cybersecurity and operational decision-making. Known for strong analytical skills, structured reporting and effective communication with both technical and non-technical stakeholders.

CORE SKILLS

Cybersecurity & SOC. Incident response (SOC workflows), phishing & brute-force analysis, log monitoring, alert triage, access control, incident reporting, basic threat investigation, containment & remediation**.**

Artificial Intelligence. Applied AI fundamentals, data analysis, automation, AI tools, data-driven problem solving.

IT & Systems. Windows/macOS/Linux, Microsoft 365 & Active Directory, networking (TCP/IP, DNS, VPN), ITSM, troubleshooting, system configuration & maintenance.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cybersecurity / IT Analyst – Spanish National Police (Police Headquarters), Spain | 2018-2025

- Provided technical assistance and troubleshooting for users and systems in operational environments.
- Supported user access management, permissions and system configuration.
- Participated in incident identification, analysis and response activities.
- Monitored systems and logs to ensure service continuity and performance.
- Documented technical issues, resolutions and standard operating procedures.
- Collaborated with internal teams to maintain secure and stable IT operations.

Network Analyst – Spanish National Police (IT Operations), Spain | 2010 - 2016

- Provided hands-on IT support for users and systems in operational environments, resolving hardware, software and access-related issues across Windows-based platforms.
- Assisted with system configuration, troubleshooting and basic administration to maintain service availability and performance.
- Participated in incident identification, analysis and response activities, supporting both technical resolution and security assessment.
- Monitored systems and logs to detect technical issues, potential security events and operational anomalies.
- Applied cybersecurity best practices to daily IT operations, including secure access management, system hardening and risk awareness.
- Documented incidents, resolutions, procedures and security-related observations to support continuity, auditability and knowledge sharing.

Law Enforcement Officer – Spanish National Police, Spain | 2007 - 2025

- Served as a police officer within the Spanish National Police, covering operational, investigative and technical roles across the organisation.

- Worked as a criminal investigator, handling investigations, reporting and evidence management in high-pressure environments.

- Specialized in cybercrime investigations, supporting analysis of cyber-related incidents and digital evidence.

- Performed duties as an IT and cybersecurity analyst, supporting users, systems and networked environments.

- Provided hands-on IT support and troubleshooting, user access management and basic system configuration.

- Participated in incident identification and response from both technical and security perspectives.

EDUCATION

Diploma of Artificial Intelligence – Greystone College, Australia *(2025-2026 | in progress)*

- Practical training in artificial intelligence concepts, data analysis and applied AI technologies.

- Exposure to AI tools, automation and problem-solving techniques relevant to technical and operational environments.

- Ongoing program focused on applied learning and industry-relevant skills.

Master's Degree in Cybersecurity – UNIR University, Spain

- Advanced training in cybersecurity principles, secure systems design and risk management.

- Focus areas included network security, incident response, security auditing and cyber threat analysis.

- Applied cybersecurity concepts to real-world technical environments and operational scenarios.

- **Master's Final Project** *(Final project submitted – assessment expected March 2026)*:
  Design and implementation of a segmented smart home infrastructure, focused on network segmentation, secure architecture design and protection of IoT environments through isolation, monitoring and access control.

Bachelor's Degree in Criminology (specialization in Cybercrime) – UEMC University, Spain

- Academic training in criminology with a focus on cybercrime, digital investigation and criminal behaviour analysis.

- Studied legal, technical and investigative aspects of cybercrime and technology-enabled offences.

- Developed analytical and reporting skills applied to crime analysis and investigative contexts.

CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Azure Fundamentals AZ-900

Google Cybersecurity Certificate

Diploma of IT - Spanish National Police

Cybercrime & Cybersecurity Diplomas - Spanish National Police

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (C1), Portuguese (C2)

References available upon request.