

Charles (Matt) Penn

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A passionate cybersecurity enthusiast dedicated to helping others. Experienced in cybersecurity fundamentals, penetration testing, network security, AI/ML, and leadership. Committed to continuous learning in the ever-growing field of cybersecurity to acquire new skills and stay current.

EDUCATION

Marymount University, Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense

Bachelors of Science in Cybersecurity, Minor in Network Security

Arlington, VA | *Graduating December 2025*

GPA: 3.9

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, SQL

Technical: Git, Nmap, Wireshark, Metasploit, Kali Linux, MacOS, Linux, AWS, AI/ML, RAG, Docker

Soft: Teamwork, Leadership, Problem-Solving, Active Listening, Adaptability, Attention to Detail

Workshops: C Programming, Github, Linux

Certifications

- CompTIA PenTest+ (ID: WLR5T96S821QQVQ2) - Sep 2025 [verify.CompTIA.org](https://www.verify.comtia.org)
- CompTIA Security+ (ID: 463EBJ2YR1411N3Z) - Mar 2025 [verify.CompTIA.org](https://www.verify.comtia.org)
- CompTIA Network+ (ID: ZHY4YXWYR1VEQSCK) - Dec 2024 [verify.CompTIA.org](https://www.verify.comtia.org)
- Google Project Management - Aug 2025

EXPERIENCE

Marymount University - *Cybersecurity Research Lead, Cyberclinic*

Arlington, VA | Feb 2025 - Sept 2025 | 20 hours per week

- Conducted research on cybersecurity requirements for small businesses and prepared marketing materials for the clinic.
- Received hands-on training in Splunk for analyzing Security Operations Center (SOC) logs, enhancing knowledge of real-time threat detection and security operations.
- Provided services to local small businesses such as cyber awareness training, cybersecurity audits, and vulnerability assessments under the direction of Marymount technology faculty.
- Promoted from Research Assistant to Research Lead after 4 weeks following successful Security+ certification and having demonstrated technical and leadership capabilities.

Marymount University - *Millennium AI Research Assistant*

Arlington, VA | May 2024 - Feb 2025 | 20 hours per week

- Leveraged advanced AI research and development to create innovative solutions for automated test script generation.
- Implemented retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) by integrating large language models (LLMs) with external knowledge sources to generate automated test scripts based on test cases and input.
- Composed a comprehensive white paper of detailed research findings and technical outcomes; delivered findings to key DoD stakeholders at a research symposium.
- Presented research to a panel at the 2025 Marymount Student Research Conference.

Millennium Corporation (DoD) - *CY 24 DoD Pathfinder Cyber Intern*

Orlando, FL | June 2024-July 2024 | 40 hours per week

- Selected for a six-week paid cybersecurity and testing internship sponsored by DOT&E and executed by Threat Systems Management Office (TSMO).
- Obtained foundational cybersecurity and software test and evaluation training, which included coursework for Security+ and PenTest+.

- Developed skills in red teaming, offensive methodologies, reconnaissance, and vulnerability exploitation.
- Conducted a gray-box penetration test and presented the findings to both high-level Department of Defense (DoD) DOT&E executives and technical audiences.

Ashburn Rebels Coach - Assistant Coach

Ashburn, VA | July 2017-June 2022 | 20 hours per week

- Led a competitive travel youth baseball program, responsible for player development, team strategy, game planning, communication and scouting.
- Coached the team to win multiple tournaments, with 3 players progressing to play at the collegiate level.

EXTRACURRICULARS, PROJECTS, AND RESEARCH

AI Assisted Offline Reconnaissance and Hacking Tool, Marymount University

Jan 2025 - May 2025

- Developed prototype cybersecurity tool optimized for offline, penetration testing in air-gapped or highly controlled environments
- Designed offline AI solution to assist in giving recommendations and analysis
- Integrated Linux, automation, single-board computing, and reducing detectable digital footprint for covert red team operations
- Engineered a Bluetooth serial communication feature to establish wireless access channels to target devices, enabling remote command execution.

National Cyber League (NCL) Spring 2025 Competition, Capture the Flag Events

Jan 2025 - Present

- Achieved top 5% nationally in the National Cyber League Individual Game in Spring 2025 (344/8,571 participants)
- Achieved top 1% nationally in the National Cyber League Team Game in Spring 2025 (36/4,700 teams)
- Competitor in Marymount Cyber Club, selected to compete in Cyberfusion 2025 at VMI and CyberSEED 2025

Navy CRAM Challenge, NSWC Dahlgren Division

Sept 2024- Nov 2024

Team Member

- Selected to compete in a national-level challenge focused on assessing and enhancing cyber resiliency.
- Collaborated with a team to engineer mathematical models and software algorithms, including AI and Machine Learning for a cyber resiliency assessment tool to evaluate system functionality during a cyber attack.
- Designed and implemented artificial intelligence for scoring systems potential cyber resilience against a given APT.

Caregivers to Breadwinners, Marymount University

Oct 2024 - July 2025

Assistant Instructor

- Assisted in teaching IT fundamentals to adult caregivers looking to transition into IT careers, provided hands-on support and real-world examples to instruct.
- Mentored multiple participants through CompTIA ITF+ certification.