

# Charles (Matt) Penn

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Springfield, VA | 703-298-3810 | matt penn7@gmail.com

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

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**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

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**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
- CompTIA Security+ (ID: 463EBJ2YR1411N3Z) - Mar 2025 verify.CompTIA.org
- CompTIA Network+ (ID: ZHY4YXWYR1VEQSCK) - Dec 2024 verify.CompTIA.org
- Google Project Management - Aug 2025

## EXPERIENCE

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**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**

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**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.