

# Ashton Sopher

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## Summary

IT professional specializing in cybersecurity with practical experience and strong theoretical foundations. Skilled in offensive and defensive security. Looking for an opportunity to empower colleagues cross-functionally.

## Skills

**IT:** Windows 10 & 11, Windows Server 2019 & 2022, Microsoft Active Directory, Perch IDS, FortiGuard firewall, FortiClient VPN, Okta, TecMFA, ticketing systems

**Security:** networks, incident response, risk mitigation, data encryption, key management, malware, IDS/IPS, DLP, SIEM/SOAR, Nmap, Metasploit, Kali Linux, vulnerability scanning, antivirus tools, penetration testing, reporting

**Coding/Systems:** Python, Java, HTML, CSS, Javascript, Git, R, C, SQL, MATLAB, Ruby, Linux, Bash, Powershell

**Languages:** English (native), French (native), Spanish (conversational), Turkish (conversational)

## Education & Certifications

**CompTIA - Security+** October 2023

**EC-Council - Certified Ethical Hacker** December 2022

**University of Rochester, Rochester NY - B.A. in Computer Science & Mathematics** August 2017 - May 2021

## Experience

**Pioneer Valley Credit Union - IT Support Specialist** January 2024 - Present

### Projects

- MFA/SSO: Planned and implemented MFA/SSO solution across the company using YubiKeys, Okta, and TecMFA. Manages these systems and users.
- Intranet: Designed internal SharePoint site, working with department heads to design their respective department pages. Maintains and updates content as requested.
- PC replacements: Planned and executed widespread upgrades to replace end-of-life hardware.
- Windows 11 upgrade: Planned and executed company-wide upgrade to Windows 11. Tested department-specific software and checked hardware compatibility to replace outdated devices.
- IT reference cards: Created reference cards for common IT issues and processes; designed, assembled, and distributed decks to employees across the company.
- Equipment inventory: Created and maintains spreadsheets logging all digital equipment across all branches of the company. Issues equipment to employees and tracks signed forms.
- Key log: Inventoried all physical keys, testing unknown keys and making copies; recorded employee assignments. Issues keys to employees and tracks signed forms.
- Program access log: Met with department heads and executive staff to create a comprehensive access control matrix for all authenticated websites and programs used across the company.
- Email format update: Planned and executed changing company email format while maintaining aliases. Helped employees create new Outlook profiles and import their old profiles.

- Remote work optimization: Researched solutions to improve the remote work experience for employees while improving information security. Presented solutions to management and CEO.

#### Responsibilities

- Reviews intrusion detection system alerts, IT security missing patch reports, anti-virus reports, backups, and firewall activity. Works with IT vendor to remediate.
- Maintains email and domain allow/deny list derived from end-user phishing reports.
- Troubleshoots IT tickets submitted via internal Help Desk across multiple branches and offices. Communicates with the end-user to identify issues and steps to resolve, through phone, email, IM, or in-person communication. Documents remediation.
- Develops formal documentation for IT processes and procedures.
- Works with vendors to triage and escalate tickets and to provision hardware.
- Deploys new PCs, Laptops, and related hardware to Credit Union staff. Installs necessary software independently and with IT vendor.
- Logs all Credit Union hardware, ensuring hardware is properly tagged and required information is recorded.
- Issues and receives employee keys, logging keys for all branches and offices and recording all key assignment changes.
- Logs Credit Union employee system access. Records changes to end-user permissions and system access.

#### **Springboard – Cybersecurity Trainee**

February 2023 - December 2023

Produced a capstone structured walkthrough of an offensive security engagement for a fictional company, covering reconnaissance, vulnerability scanning, risk assessment, and final report. Full deliverables can be found on [GitHub](#).

#### **Varsity Tutors – Mathematics Tutor**

January 2022 - December 2023

Worked one-on-one over video chat and text chat with mathematics students of all ages and abilities to provide remediation or enrichment.

#### **Department of Computer Science, University of Rochester – Research Assistant**

May 2020 - August 2020

Worked with a faculty member in collaboration with researchers from the University of Rochester Medical Center to develop a secure multi-party computation cryptographic system for sharing sensitive genomics data for cancer research, using Genome Analysis Toolkit, Picard, and Java.

#### **Department of Computer Science, University of Rochester – Teaching Assistant**

January 2020 - May 2020

Guided Social Implications of Computing students in discussions to develop their ideas and understanding of ethics and their moral responsibilities as future engineers. Also aided the professor in grading and running class smoothly.

#### **WINLAB, Rutgers University – Intern**

May 2019 - August 2019

Designed a system to collect spectrum usage from a wireless testbed and applied machine learning to predict future usage and to extrapolate network data using software-defined radios, LSTM neural networks, and PyTorch.

#### **WINLAB, Rutgers University – Intern**

May 2018 - August 2018

Worked on a Red Team with four other computer science students to develop and execute several attacks against a Blue Team's Internet of Things system. Successfully ran jamming and sniffing attacks using Bluetooth peripherals, software-defined radios, and Wireshark.