NICHOLAS BENNET

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Languages
Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, C++, SQL

EXPERIENCE

New York University (NYU) IT — **New York, NY**
Cyber Security Engineer/Architect — *Jul 2021 - Present*

- Led the architecture and deployment of an enterprise-wide Privileged Access Management system, enhancing security measures across the board.
- Spearheaded the implementation of Network Access Control, dynamically managing access within the NYU network.
- Enhanced NYU's cybersecurity posture by upgrading the Cybersecurity Awareness platform, KnowBE4, and rolling out a comprehensive phishing simulation and awareness program reaching over 80,000 users.
- Pioneered the use of endpoint security solutions for personal devices, significantly reducing potential threats.
- Formulated standards for securely conducting sensitive data research, improving data security across departments.
- Advanced network security by implementing risk-based segmentation, addressing critical vulnerabilities effectively.
- Conducted extensive evaluations of three Cloud Access Security Brokers, boosting the security of 107 cloud applications.
- Executed a Proof of Concept (POC) for integrating Static and Dynamic Application Security Testing (SAST/DAST) into the CI/CD pipeline, enhancing security during development.
- Developed a Zero Trust Network Access framework to secure critical university and research assets.
- Implemented a hosted solution for SPF, DKIM, and DMARC to fortify defenses against email fraud.
- Reduced the university's attack surface through meticulous external network scans and prompt remediation efforts.

System Administrator and Security Awareness Assistant — *Nov 2019 – Jul 2021*

- Contributed to the development and deployment of a university-wide cybersecurity awareness program, significantly reducing security risks.
- Automated the integration of the KnowBE4 platform with NYU's services, optimizing cybersecurity training effectiveness.
- Successfully decreased phishing attack susceptibility by 13.2% through targeted phishing training initiatives.
- Resolved multiple identity and security issues within the university's Active Directory, enhancing system integrity.

Solarify India — **Bengaluru, India**
Web Developer — *Jan 2019 – May 2019*

- Overhauled the existing website and moved it to a more secure cloud-based hosting reducing the load time by 3 seconds.
- Devised solutions to increase the security and visibility of the WordPress website by using a plugin and WAF.
- Coded an internal Excel sheet using Macros for cost calculations increasing the productivity by 20%.

Newranium Creatives — **Chennai, India**
Frontend Web Developer — *Mar 2017 – Mar 2018*

- Developed websites for 4 small businesses in Chennai city.
- Worked with various frontend technologies like NodeJS, Angular, Ruby on Rails and PHP.
- Deployed the websites on cloud-based services like AWS, Azure, Google Cloud.

SKILLS

Tools: Git, Jira, Nmap, Wireshark, OWASP ZAP, Splunk, MITRE ATT&CK, NIST, CWE, CVSS, CVE, Docker, ServiceNow, Cisco NAC ISE, Active Directory, OpenLDAP, InsightVM, Snyk, Fortify, Synopsys, GitLab, Veracode, BeyondTrust, ZScaler, Valimail, Proofpoint EFD, Proofpoint TRAP, SailPoint IdentityIQ, SAML, OIDC, OAuth, Bash

Platforms: AWS, Google Cloud, Azure, Linux, Windows Server, macOS

EDUCATION

New York University — **May 2021**
Master of Science, Computer Engineering (3.43/4) — New York, NY

SRM Institute of Science and Technology — **May 2018**
Bachelor of Technology, Electronics and Communication Engineering — Chennai, India

PROJECTS

Civic Compass *(Python, LangChain, JavaScript)* *(GitHub)* — **Mar 2024**

- Designed an innovative web application to answer election related questions for IvyHacks 2024
- Applications uses an innovative technique called Retrieval Augmented Fine Tuning to finetune an LLM to answer questions based on documents provided.
- Won the Praxis Prize for the project.

Neural Network Backdoor Removal *(Python, TensorFlow, Keras, NumPy)* *(GitHub)* — **Dec 2020**

- Developed multiple methods to clean a poisoned neural network with known and unknown backdoors in a team of 3.
- Scripts were developed using the TensorFlow, Keras, and NumPy libraries to remove known and unknown backdoors from a neural network.