Nick Hall

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Cybersecurity Professional | CISSP, CDP, CCNP

Visit my website

Experienced Cybersecurity Specialist with a strong solutions-driven approach, specializing in managing intricate IT landscapes and crafting cutting-edge technical solutions for leading companies. Possess deep knowledge in both on-premises and cloud-based infrastructures, excelling in the creation, implementation, and improvement of critical information security strategies.
Skilled in designing and overseeing essential security programs, adept at operational management of security incidents and their resolution processes. Renowned for effectively collaborating across various teams and communicating seamlessly with stakeholders at every corporate level. A detail-focused and proactive professional, with outstanding skills in verbal and written communication, analysis, organization, and time management.

Core Competencies

- Systems Architecture
- Cloud Infrastructure
- Information Security
- Vulnerability Management
- Incident Management
- Penetration Testing
- ISO 27001 and SOC2
- Project Design
- DevSecOps
- Thought Leadership
- Troubleshooting
- Project Management

Industry Certifications and Training

- Certified DevSecOps Professional
- Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- Microsoft Azure Fundamentals
- Cisco Certified Network Professional
- Certified SAFe 4 Agilist
- FortiSIEM - Advanced Analytics 5.2 Self-Paced
- Splunk - Building Reports, Dashboards, and Alerts

Experience

JAN 2022 - PRESENT

Senior Security Engineer - DevSecOps | CISSP, CDP, CCNP
Mitto AG

In my role as Senior Security Engineer at Mitto, I played a pivotal role in enhancing the company's ISO 27001 compliance. I achieved this by developing a comprehensive vulnerability management program and leading the SOC2 attestation engagement. Collaborating closely with the Executive team, I conducted an in-depth gap analysis of security controls, essential for safeguarding the organization. This analysis not only secured the necessary budget but also kick-started the implementation of critical security control adoption.

Key contributions:

- Pioneered a 'shift-left' approach in DevOps, leading to the formation of a dedicated DevSecOps team, enhancing security integration in development processes.
- Expertise in designing and implementing robust solutions within a dynamic DevOps environment.
- Formulated and championed a strategic security architecture vision, providing a roadmap for enhanced security posture.
- Directed comprehensive penetration testing exercises to identify and mitigate potential vulnerabilities.
- Successfully deployed a Privileged Access Management solution, fortifying access controls and reducing risk exposure.
- Implemented an advanced event and process analysis tool for real-time threat detection, anomaly tracking, and File Integrity Monitoring, augmenting security surveillance capabilities.
- Contributed significantly to ensuring adherence to relevant data security laws, regulations, and customer requirements.
- Authored and updated various policy and procedure documents, ensuring alignment with security best practices and compliance standards.

MAY 2018 – DEC 2021

Senior Solutions Security Architect | CISSP, CCNP
Dimension Data/NTT

In my capacity as a Senior Solutions Security Architect at Dimension Data, I was integral in bolstering the security framework of various organizations. My role encompasses the continual enhancement of security assurance, architecture design, security controls, security awareness, and Information Security Management System programs. I offer thought leadership and subject matter expertise (SME), delivering pragmatic assistance to support businesses, and spearhead the development of security capabilities across different regions. My global client portfolio includes prestigious names like *Coca-Cola*, *Volkswagen SA*, *Mercedes-Benz*, and *Virgin Money*.

Key achievements:

- Defined and established critical security business requirements, designing advanced security solutions based on layered defense strategies.
- Specialized in crafting and implementing solutions aligned with Security Operations functions.
- Pioneered the development of a strategic security architecture vision, setting the direction for enhanced security frameworks.
- Successfully led cross-functional teams in the deployment of comprehensive Information Security solutions across the organization.
- Effectively mitigated enterprise vulnerabilities and minimized attack surface through rigorous Security reviews and control implementations.
- Executed detailed risk assessments, Security Architecture design reviews, and project security evaluations, ensuring risk assessment for key applications and products.

- Diligently ensured compliance with applicable data security laws, regulations, and customer requirements.
- Documented and mapped the architecture of existing security infrastructure, providing clear visibility and control over security measures.

JANUARY 2013 – MAY 2018

Security Engineer L3 | MSSP Team Lead, CCNP
Dimension Data, South Africa

As the Lead Security Engineer at Dimension Data, my primary responsibility was to provide expert engineering support to our Managed Security Service Provider (MSSP) clients. This role demanded the design and development of new infrastructures, implementation of innovative features, and guiding clients in their transition to cloud environments. My extensive experience spans across various industries, supporting both private and public sector clients. Through this, I have gained proficiency in a broad range of technologies:

Key skills and technologies:

- Proficient in managing Multi-Vendor Firewalls and Proxies, including FortiGate, Cisco ASA, Palo Alto, and Checkpoint.
- Skilled in Intrusion Prevention and Detection systems such as McAfee, Cisco, and FortiGate.
- Adept in Multi-factor Authentication systems like FortiToken, Cisco DUO, Azure MFA, and RSA.
- Experience with Public Key Infrastructure, specifically Multi-Tier Internal PKI Architectures.
- Proficient in Load Balancers including Azure, Stingray, and NGINX.
- Skilled in managing Web Application Firewalls, particularly FortiWeb and Azure Application Gateway.
- Experienced in Vulnerability Scanning using Nessus, OpenVAS, and Qualys.

JULY 2004 – DECEMBER 2012

Network Engineer, CCNA | CCNP
The McGraw-Hill Companies, United Kingdom

As a Certified Network Engineer at McGraw-Hill Companies, I was tasked with providing comprehensive network engineering support across the EMEA offices. My role primarily centered around data center and local area network support, extending to WAN administration and telephony support. This position also marked the beginning of my journey into Cybersecurity.

- Proficient in managing Cisco Enterprise Switches and Cisco SAN Director Switches.
- Experienced in Network Security, including FortiGate and Bluecoat Proxy.

Memberships

MAY 2018 - PRESENT

Centre for Research in Information and Cybersecurity (CRICS)

Advisory Board Member of the Centre for Research in Information and Cybersecurity (CRICS) and the School of ICT. Inducted as an advisory board member of the Centre for Research in Information and Cyber Security at the Nelson Mandela Bay University, participating with, and mentoring the next generation of Cybersecurity professionals.

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