

POOJA BHARADWAJ

SENIOR SECURITY LEAD

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Professional Summary

Senior Security Consultant and Leader with 8+ years of experience in network security, cybersecurity, and cyber forensics, specializing in AAA, IDS/IPS, and firewall technologies. Skilled in secure network architecture and applying machine learning to security use cases, including a dynamic DeepWalk-based link prediction model. IEEE-published author, public speaker, and technical trainer. M.Tech in Information Security Management with a thesis on network embedding. Proven leader in technical mentoring, automation, and community initiatives, including curriculum development and diversity programs in cybersecurity.

Skills

- **Security & Network Protocols:** TCP/IP, HTTP, PKI, BGP, OSPF, SNMP, AAA – RADIUS/TACACS+
- **Security Platforms & Tools:** Cisco ASA, Cisco FTD, Routers and Switches, Cisco ISE, Firepower, Wireshark, Cisco Nexus/ACI, Kali Linux, Metasploit
- **Threat Detection and Incident Response:** IPS, IDS, Anomaly Detection, Link Prediction, Cyber-Attacks, OWASP
- **Machine Learning and AI Security:** Python, Bash, Pandas, Networkx, NumPy, Scikit-learn, REST APIs, Regex Parsers, selenium, matlab
- **Cryptography:** RSA, Multi-Prime RSA, AES, DES, Diffie-Hellman, Hybrid Encryption, NIST Encryption Standards
- **Cyber-Forensics:** Disk/Memory Forensics (FTK), Mobile forensics, Image forensics, FRED server

Experience

2021 - Present

Cisco Systems Pvt. Ltd

Senior Security Lead

- Presented lecture on AI in Cyber Forensics at 2025 Bangalore Offensive Summit.
- Delivered network security course as NPTEL instructor for ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) Winter School covering Security Architecture, AAA, FTD, PKI, ACL NAT. [[Course Link on NPTEL](#)][[Youtube-NPTEL](#)]
- Created **automation scripts** for ISE Context visibility reports including large scale data handling, **parsers for network analysis**, migration tool for F5 to FTD, CVE checker for Cisco software versions (internal **web-scrapper**), SNMPwalk server for firewalls and Linux based systems.
- Created training and workshop material from scratch and delivered customer-facing sessions on Cisco Products (ISE, FTD, ASA), as well as internal trainings on ISE and FTD.
- Worked with Cisco's key accounts across the globe (APJC, EMEA, AMER) to deliver security solutions – designing security architecture, implementation plans and troubleshooting runbooks.
- Cross-skilled with Data Center team as a **resiliency engineer**, delivered DC outcomes (dealt with routers, switches, Nexus, Fortinet, Netcut, Bluecoat, etc.), while also helping with Cisco security devices.
- Mentored Aspiring Managers under Cisco's Aspiring Manager Program for Communication and Public Speaking skills. Delivered 2-hour workshops for batch of 30 AMs along with a well-defined feedback loop and course activities.
- **Led the Professional Services Technical Group Automation Charter** initiative to unify, regulate and improve accessibility for automations efforts, tools and scripts within the team.
- **Leading the Women-in-Cybersecurity Community for APJC Region –**
 - Worked with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Govt. of India for designing Security Curriculum for **1000-CISO** programme, focusing on MITRE ATT&CK and zero-day defense frameworks.
 - Worked with NGOs for security awareness and trainings for school and college students.
 - Worked with Cisco recruitment and organized intensive security training and hiring programme for remote colleges. (BOOST initiative)
 - Ideated, designed and organised annual mentorship program for early in career female employees.

2019 - 2021
Cisco Systems Pvt. Ltd

Security Consulting Engineer II

- Worked on various customer centric document deliverables.
- Created and delivered Proactive Software Recommendation reports.
- Performed Security Advisory evaluation in customer environment.
- Worked as a Cisco TAC Engineer on rotation:
 - Extensively troubleshooted the Cisco ASA Firewall.
 - Handled critical network outage situations on a daily basis, recovered such networks within rigorous time constraints for Banks, Governments, Healthcare customers.
 - Reassured panicked customer and ensured positive sentiment in each situation, received consistent appreciative feedback.

2017 - 2019
Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical
University for Women

Teaching Assistant (TA)

- Delivered lectures for B. Tech students (CSE, IT) for Object Oriented Programming, Communication Devices, Cloud computing.
- Mentored MCA students for course on Business Intelligence and Data Analytics course – helped ideate and review their final projects and poster presentations.
- Lab TA for Data Science and BI, python, Intro to Linux courses.

Education

Aug 2017 - Jun 2019
Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical
University for Women

M. Tech – Information Security Management | CPI: 83.24/100

- **Coursework:** Network Security and Management, Cryptography, Cloud Security, Cyber Forensics and Incident Handling, Secure Coding and Security Engineering, Advanced Data Structures, OS Hardening, Data Science and ML, PKI, Ethical Hacking, Security Audits and Compliance Standards.
- **Key Projects:** **Dynamic Deepwalk (DDW), An Approach for Efficient Feature Learning for Dynamic Networks (THESIS), Proposing a Key Escrow Mechanism for Real-Time access to End-to-End encryption systems in the Interest of Law Enforcement** (IEEE Conference publication), **Incident Report Submission** (Ministry of Civil Aviation, Airports Authority of India)
- **Internship:** Special Cell, Cyber Crime, Delhi Police
- **Workshops:** Data Science and ML (as Mentor, ACM IGDTUW), Social Computing (IIIT Hyderabad), Cyber Forensics and Cyber Security, Fred Server (ISEA project and IGDTUW), 6th Security and Privacy Symposium (IIIT Delhi)

2013 - 2017
Bharati Vidyapeeth's College of
Engineering, New Delhi

B. Tech – Information Technology

Graduated with Distinction; represented college and won Innovation Award at Smart India Hackathon 2017, CATC Allahabad.

Key Projects: Study of Multi-Level Cryptography Algorithm: Multi-Prime RSA and DES, Study of Multi-Prime RSA, Miscellaneous Outstanding (DMRC - Internship)

Certifications

- CCNA – Routing and Switching
- CCNA - Security
- CCNP - Security Core, Firepower concentration
- Cisco DevNet Associate
- Cisco CyberOps Associate
- CEHv10

Key Achievements and Publications

- **Instructor-led Course on Network Security – NPTEL** at ACM Winter School [<https://nptel.ac.in/courses/128108019>]
- **Young Researcher** at the 7th [Heidelberg Laureate Forum](#) (Selected by the Scientific Committee and recipient of the **Romberg Grant.**)
- **Master of Ceremonies** and **Panelist (Careers in Industry and Academia)** at the 9th [Heidelberg Laureate Forum](#). [[Opening Ceremonies](#)]
- **"Dynamic Deepwalk (DDW), An Approach for Efficient Feature Learning for Dynamic Networks"** – M. Tech Thesis
- **"Proposing a Key Escrow Mechanism for Real-Time access to End-to-End encryption systems in the Interest of Law Enforcement"** 3rd IC3I, 2018, p. 233-237, doi: 10.1109/IC3I44769.2018.9007301.
- **"Study of Multi-Level Cryptography Algorithm: Multi-Prime RSA and DES"**, International Journal of Computer Network and Information Security (IJCNIS), Vol.9, No.9, pp.22-29, 2017. DOI: 10.5815/ijcnis.2017.09.03
- **"Study of Multi-Prime RSA"**, 11th INDIACOM; IEEE Conference ID: 40353, 4th International Conference on "Computing for Sustainable Global Development", 01 - 03 March, 2017, Delhi (INDIA)