

Shiva Shashank Kusuma

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Cybersecurity researcher with 3 years of experience and dual Master's degrees in Cybersecurity and CS. Proven track record developing open-source security tools (ROP ROCKET), publishing research, and presenting at top-tier conferences (DEF CON, BlackHat).

Education

University of Alabama

Huntsville, AL

Master's in **Cybersecurity** – 3.7/4.0 CGPA

Graduated: **May 2025**

Master's in **Computer Science** – 3.6/4.0 CGPA

Graduated: May 2024

SR Engineering College

India

Bachelor's in **Computer Science** – 3.15/4.0 CGPA

Aug 2016 – Nov 2020

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, JavaScript (ES6+), HTML, CSS, Assembly Language (x86)

Technologies/Frameworks: React, Next.js, Express.js, REST APIs, AI/LLMs, Prompt Engineering

Tools/Platforms: Git/GitHub, Bash, Windows, Linux, MacOS, VS Code, Version Control, AWS Cloud

Cybersecurity: Reverse Engineering, Software Exploitation, ROP (code-reuse attacks), Windows APIs

Experience

Security Research Assistant

Aug 2022 – May 2025

Verona Labs, UAH

Huntsville, AL

- **Co-authored** multiple research papers and submitted a novel exploit to Exploit-DB within the first 2 years.
- Co-authored and **co-created** ROP ROCKET ([open-source](#)) and presented it as a **co-speaker** at DEF CON 2023 [info: [link](#)].
- Developed more than 150 working ROP patterns that can exploit Windows along with Process Injection techniques [[paper](#)].

Mobile Application Developer Intern

May 2020

UrbanRider

Hyderabad, India

- Mastered Flutter within 1 week to deliver production-ready cross-platform app, reducing onboarding time by 75%.
- Built manager app, deploying 15+ features that improved efficiency by 40% and cut deployment cycle from 2 weeks to 3 days.

Projects

Geekyboy | Technologies: Java, Android Studio, WordPress, Firebase

Nov 2017 – April 2019

- Tech related Android app (**50k+** Downloads), Website (**100k+** Stats), **150** Rank in Google Play Store.
- Researched and Implemented ASO gaining huge traffic (2k+ downloads/day) with an average **4.7/5**-star.

AI Research Paper Assistant | Technologies: Python, OpenAI API

Feb 2025

- Developed AI-powered research assistant processing 1000+ arXiv papers daily, reducing manual research time by 80%.
- Integrated summarization generating 200-word abstracts in <5 sec, enabling researchers to review 50+ papers/hour vs 5.

Achievements

- 2x Speaker at **DEF CON** official talk – 2023, 2024 [info: [link](#)]
- Co-speaker at BlackHat Arsenal – 2024 [info: [link](#)]
- Secured a top 3 position in the 48-hour WittyFeed coding hackathon

Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

AWS Certified Security – Specialty

Amazon Web Services (AWS)

AWS Certified AI Practitioner

Amazon Web Services (AWS)