

# Solomon Neas

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Network and systems engineer who builds production-grade infrastructure students can study, break, and rebuild. Lead administrator for Polk State's NSET department: architecting open-source SOC, NOC, and virtualization platforms with documented, reproducible designs that double as teaching artifacts. 17+ years of training and mentorship across culinary, IT, and higher education. Projects have delivered ~\$165K+ in annual cost avoidance while creating hands-on lab environments for cybersecurity and networking courses. Polk State alumnus (collegiate high school through BAS) with deep institutional knowledge. Pursuing M.S. in Cybersecurity Intelligence with a goal of teaching the next generation of IT professionals.

Supporting documentation and sources: solomonneas.dev/projects

## EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Training & Instruction: 17+ years | Higher Education: 4+ years | Web & Software Development: 6+ years | IT Administration & Support: 7+ years

## EDUCATION

**M.S. Cybersecurity Intelligence & Information Security**

USF | Expected Fall 2026

**B.A.S. Supervision & Management: Business IT**

Polk State College | May 2025

**A.S. Network Systems Engineering Technology**

Polk State College | May 2022

## TEACHING & INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Laboratory Assistant, Network Systems Engineering Technology | Polk State College | Dec 2023 - Present**

- Architected Proxmox cluster migration from VMware ESXi: ~\$68K annual cost avoidance (196 cores x \$350/core). Led Hyper-V migration including AD DC leapfrogging and replacing legacy file servers with Samba-based Linux alternatives.
- Deployed open-source SOC (Wazuh, TheHive, Cortex, MISP, Zeek/Suricata): ~\$140K-\$217K 3-year cost avoidance vs. outsourced MSSP; functions as \$50K-\$150K-equivalent cyber range with documented playbooks students can replicate and extend.
- Built LAIM (Lab Asset Inventory Manager) and Watchtower NOC Dashboard: open-source network monitoring with real-time topology visualization replacing ~\$29K/year SolarWinds licensing; both include full documentation as teaching artifacts.
- Orchestrated multi-model AI pipelines (Claude, GPT, Gemini) to ship 30+ production applications with automated code review and CI/CD. Built 9 MCP servers bridging AI agents to security tools.
- Mentor students on infrastructure they can study, break, and rebuild; collaborate with faculty to ensure labs align with course objectives; manage Cisco switches, Palo Alto firewalls, and ~200 devices across 4 classrooms.

**Executive/Sous Chef: Culinary Leadership | Tampa, FL | 2005 - 2022 (17 years)**

- Trained and developed staff from entry-level to experienced; created structured onboarding, hands-on assessments, and progressive learning paths directly applicable to classroom instruction and student mentorship.
- Led teams of 5-15 through high-pressure environments requiring clear communication, real-time problem solving, and the ability to break down complex processes into teachable components for learners at all levels.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

**User Support Specialist I | Polk State College | Aug 2021 - Dec 2023**

- Served as de facto lead technician at campus location; led projects, held elevated administrative privileges, and trained fellow technicians on procedures, tools, and troubleshooting techniques.
- Provided Tier 1-2 support across six campuses (~600 users, ~4,000 endpoints); managed imaging, Active Directory administration, and Cisco switch port configurations.

**Owner / Web Developer | solomonneas.dev | Dec 2025 - Present**

- Full-stack portfolio and freelance practice: 30+ applications, 9 MCP servers, deployed via GitHub + Vercel CI/CD.

**Founder / Web Developer | Neas Web Productions | Jan 2001 - May 2007 (6 years)**

- Founded and operated web development business serving paying clients; managed full project lifecycle from consultation through deployment and ongoing support.

**On-Call Help Desk | Ralph Nobe Jr. MD | June 2005 - Dec 2007 (2.5 years)**

- Provided on-call SOHO technical support for Windows 95/98/XP environments; first professional IT role.

**TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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**Systems & Virtualization:** Active Directory, Azure, O365, SCCM, Docker, Proxmox/VMware/Hyper-V, Netlabs+

**Networking & Security:** Cisco Enterprise Switches, Palo Alto Firewalls, Wazuh, TheHive, Cortex, MISP, Zeek, Suricata

**AI & Development:** Python, FastAPI, React, TypeScript, Astro, MCP Servers, Multi-Model AI Pipelines, Git, CI/CD

**Instructional:** Canvas LMS, Lab Environment Design, Technical Documentation, Curriculum Support, Student Mentoring