

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 comparable to ~\$29K/year SolarWinds deployment; both include full documentation as teaching artifacts.
- Orchestrate multi-model AI pipelines (Claude, GPT, Gemini) with security-first practices: sandboxed execution, OAuth-only auth, allowlisted tool policies, network-isolated containers. 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 deployed via GitHub + Vercel + Railway CI/CD. Flagship projects: Watchtower (NOC dashboard), S³ Stack (open-source SOC), Bro Hunter (threat hunting), CyberBRIEF (intel aggregation).

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 Nobo 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

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