Clayton Ward

Senior Product Security Engineer, OSWE, CISSP
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SUMMARY

Analytical engineer with 15+ years of "builder DNA". From TIG welding at 12 and shipping apps in 9th grade, to standing up AppSec programs from zero as a founding security hire. I specialize in the technical 'Deep Dive': threat modeling, pentesting and building the DevSecOps pipelines that automate security into the product. I prioritize structural integrity and "Secure-by-Design" guardrails to eliminate manual friction and human error. I build systems that run themselves so I can solve the problems that don't.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Security:** OSWE, CISSP, Offensive Pentesting, Threat Modeling (STRIDE, PASTA), SOC2 Compliance, OWASP Top 10, SAST/DAST/SCA Integration.
- **Engineering:** Node.js, Secure Microservices, CI/CD Automation (GitHub Actions, GitLab, CircleCI), Infrastructure as Code (Terraform), Cloud Security (AWS), Python, Java, PHP.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Application Security Engineer | ComplyAuto | *Jan 2024 – Present*
- Stood up the AppSec program from zero as the founding security hire; fast-tracked to Senior for driving technical roadmap and automation strategy.
- Architected integration of SAST/DAST into CI/CD pipelines and developed self-service workflows to remove manual friction from the release cycle.
- Conducted deep-dive offensive assessments (OSWE-aligned) and threat modeling for core products while providing direct remediation guidance.
- Authored foundational security policies and SOC2 controls to scale the program alongside engineering growth.

Senior Backend Engineer – AppSec | Trazi | *May 2021 – Sep 2023*
- Bridged the gap between core development and offensive security, developing secure Node.js microservices and the company's first SAST/DAST pipelines.
- Created PoC exploits to demonstrate business-logic risks to leadership, driving a risk-based remediation culture.
- Established auditing/event logging systems and mentored engineering teams on secure coding practices.

Lead Full Stack Engineer | Ubiquity Internet (Regional ISP) | *May 2020 – May 2021*
- Lead Developer for a custom internal CRM and automation suite; architected the full lifecycle and owned production systems using Node.js and MongoDB.
- Bridged software and hardware engineering to design secure network architectures (Wireless & Optical); developed custom RouterOS scripts and implemented firewall/RBAC security policies.

Founder & Principal Engineer | Flare Software | *Dec 2010 – May 2020*
- Launched consultancy in 9th grade; developed 13+ native iOS apps (featured on KSL News). Provided end-to-end software architecture and consulting for a diverse client portfolio.

CERTIFICATIONS

- **OSWE**, Offensive Security, **badge**, 2023
- **CISSP**, ISC2 **ID:1865277, badge**, 2023
- **BSCP**, PortSwigger, In-Progress

EDUCATION

- **B.S. Software Development**, Western Governors University | 2021 (Accelerated: 2.5 months)
- **A.S. Science**, Salt Lake Community College | 2014 (Early College High School)