

Travis Gottwaldt

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Summary

Passionate cyber security analyst with experience in vulnerability management, risk assessment, and threat hunting. Collaborates with engineers to reduce the attack surface and enhance the security of the organization. Works with vendors to help implement and test new software tools. Skilled in remote troubleshooting of workstations and utilizing ticketing systems. Competed in the Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition for 2 years as a firewall administrator on Palo Alto firewalls, achieving 3rd place in 2023 and 1st place in 2024 in Minnesota, and advancing to the regionals in Chicago, where the team placed 5th. Passionate about continuous learning and sharing cybersecurity knowledge through webinars, conferences, and awareness initiatives.

Work Experience

Grand Casino

Cyber Security Analyst

June 2024 to Present

- Conduct vulnerability management and risk assessments to identify and mitigate risks across organizational assets.
- Collaborate with engineers to reduce the attack surface and enhance security posture.
- Monitor security events using SIEM tools to detect threats.
- Work with third-party consultants to deploy phishing simulations and conduct user awareness training.
- Utilize RMM software to deploy patches and remotely troubleshoot end user workstations.

Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition

Firewall Administrator

November 2022 to March 2024

- Configured Palo Alto firewalls across multiple subnets and implemented port/application-based security policies in segmented network zones.
- Identified and remediated misconfigurations and vulnerable services under time constraints.
- Monitored traffic logs for suspicious activity and collaborated with teammates to respond to real-time threats.

- Maintained clear documentation of firewall rules, configurations, and compliance with competition guidelines.
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Education

Bachelor of Science in Cyber Security and Information Assurance

Western Governors University - October 2024 - Current

Associate of Applied Science in Cyber Security

Pine Technical and Community College - August 2022 - May 2024

- Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society
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Certifications

- A+
 - Network+
 - Security+
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Awards

- 2024 Midwest Regional Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition - 5th Place
- 2024 Minnesota Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition - 1st Place
- 2023 Minnesota Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition - 3rd Place