

ASHAR S. AHMED

Security Engineer, Detection & Cloud Security | CISSP | Canadian & U.S. Citizen
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Skills

Security Operations: Microsoft Sentinel, Microsoft Defender XDR, SIEM, EDR, KQL, MITRE ATT&CK, detection engineering, alert tuning, incident response, threat modeling

Identity and Endpoint: Microsoft Entra ID, Conditional Access, MFA, Microsoft Intune, Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, Windows, macOS, BitLocker, FileVault, DNS filtering, patch management

Cloud and Infrastructure: AWS, Azure, Microsoft Defender for Cloud, Terraform, Terragrunt, Checkov, Docker, Kubernetes

Vulnerability Management: vulnerability triage, remediation SLAs, Snyk, Trivy, Dependabot, compliance tracking

Automation: Python, PowerShell, Bash, JavaScript, TypeScript, C#, .NET

Compliance: NIST CSF, ISO 27001, PHIPA

Experience

Information Security Officer

Jan. 2023 - Present

Dr. Shariq Mumtaz Medicine Professional Corporation

- Built the practice's security and privacy program from scratch where no formal controls existed, producing audit-ready evidence: risk register, PHIPA-aligned policies, breach-response plan, restore-tested 3-2-1 backups, and vendor security reviews
- Administered the site's IT infrastructure end to end: Windows and macOS servers and endpoints, firewall and router configuration, and DNS, DHCP, and VPN services
- Deployed Microsoft Sentinel as the practice's SIEM, ingesting identity, endpoint, and email signal through Microsoft Defender XDR connectors where logs were previously uncollected, reducing mean-time-to-detect from days to under an hour
- Engineered custom detection content mapped to MITRE ATT&CK (T1110 brute force, T1595 scanning, T1078 valid accounts) as Sentinel analytics rules in KQL and Wazuh decoders, correlating repeated authentication failures into credential-stuffing alerts that fired on real attempts
- Standardized endpoints and identities on Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, Microsoft Intune, and Microsoft Entra ID with Conditional Access and MFA, plus full-disk encryption, DNS filtering, and enforced patching; automated configuration and compliance checks in Python, PowerShell, and Bash

Technical Contractor (AI / LLM Security Evaluation)

May 2026 - Present

Mercor Intelligence, San Francisco, CA (Remote)

- Evaluate large language model outputs for technical correctness and for security/safety failures such as prompt injection and unsafe tool use; deliver structured feedback used in model training

Software Developer

Feb. 2021 - Jan. 2022

Government of Canada (ISED & Canadian Digital Service), Ottawa, ON

- Designed passive request validation that eliminated bot-driven abuse on public form endpoints without adding user friction, and rolled it out across all public-facing forms
- Engineered secure AWS infrastructure (IAM, S3, DynamoDB, CloudWatch) via Terraform/Terragrunt; enforced policy-as-code scanning with Checkov across all modules
- Added security and quality checks to CI/CD (automated testing, policy-as-code scanning), cutting client-reported data incidents from 4-5 to 1-2 per cycle and raising test coverage from ~20% to 85%
- Developed and maintained public-facing departmental web applications; recognized with the Directors' General Award of Merit

Software Developer Intern

Sep. 2020 - Dec. 2020

National Research Council Canada

- Wrote Oracle SQL and PL/SQL and built applications on Oracle Application Express (APEX) and Oracle Platform Apps
- Built an Oracle APEX tool to sanitize and pipeline data from a legacy system into a modern platform as part of a data-migration project

Certifications

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) | (ISC)² 2026

CompTIA Cybersecurity Analyst (CySA+) | CompTIA 2024

Systems Security Certified Practitioner (SSCP) | (ISC)² 2023

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate | Amazon Web Services 2022

AWS Certified Developer – Associate | Amazon Web Services 2022

Education

M.S. Cybersecurity & Information Assurance | Western Governors University 2024