

Ashar S. Ahmed

Software/Security Developer | Canadian Citizen | ashar@aahmed.ca | GitHub

SUMMARY

Software and security developer with 4+ years building secure cloud infrastructure, automating detection and response, and leading vulnerability management. Experienced in DevSecOps, incident response, and compliance-aligned security work across NIST CSF, PHIPA, and ISO 27001-aligned controls. Holds SSCP, CISSP, and AWS certifications.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Security Operations / Detection: SIEM alert triage, EDR (Endpoint Detection and Response) investigation, log correlation, alert tuning, detection logic (SQL, regex), incident response playbooks, threat modeling

Vulnerability Management: CVE triage, vulnerability validation/prioritization, remediation coordination, evidence collection, compliance closure tracking

Identity and Access Management (IAM) / Endpoint Security: MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication), macOS/Windows hardening, FileVault, patch compliance, MDM policy enforcement, endpoint baselines, DNS filtering

Cloud / Infrastructure as Code (IaC): AWS (IAM, S3, DynamoDB, CloudWatch, CloudWatch Logs, CloudTrail), Azure (Defender for Cloud), Terraform, Terragrunt, Checkov, Docker, Kubernetes

Scripting / Automation: Python, PowerShell, Bash, JavaScript/TypeScript

Compliance: NIST CSF, ISO 27001-aligned controls, PHIPA-oriented controls, audit documentation, control evidence workflows

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cyber Security Advisor, Dr. Shariq Mumtaz Medicine Professional Corporation | **Jan. 2023 - Present**

- Built and owns the full security program from scratch for a medical practice: risk register, remediation SLAs, KPI reporting, and prioritized roadmap
- Instrumented identity, endpoint, and network telemetry with correlation-driven triage; cut Mean Time to Detect (MTTD) from days to under 1 hour
- Deployed fleet-wide MDM, MFA, FileVault, DNS filtering, and patch cadences; standardized baselines reduced spam and unsolicited traffic by **80%**
- Authored incident response playbooks and PHIPA-oriented audit evidence; supported external IT vendors through vulnerability closure and compliance reviews

Software Developer, Department of Industry, Canadian Digital Service | **Feb. 2021 - Jan. 2022**

- Engineered secure AWS infrastructure (IAM, S3, DynamoDB, CloudWatch) via Terraform/Terragrunt; enforced policy-as-code scanning with Checkov
- Eliminated bot-driven abuse by designing and deploying passive request validation, removing user friction while increasing detection coverage across all form endpoints
- Implemented CI/CD quality gates and automated testing, increasing code coverage from ~20% to **85%**; reduced client-reported data incidents from 4-5 to 1-2 per cycle
- Produced security runbooks and incident-support documentation adopted org-wide; awarded the **Directors General Award of Merit** for delivery impact on national spectrum operations

Software Developer Intern, National Research Council of Canada (NRC) | **Sept. 2020 - Dec. 2020**

- Developed full-stack Oracle Database applications powering research data pipelines across multiple NRC divisions
- Engineered PL/SQL stored procedures and SQL-based automation to replace manual workflows, eliminating ~10 hrs/week of manual processing

PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

QR-CLI | [Project page](#)

- Built and published a cross-platform Node.js CLI that generates QR codes as ASCII art with PNG export, works fully offline, and is released under the MIT license on npm and GitHub

Homelab Infrastructure Platform | [Public project page](#)

- Built and operate a self-hosted infrastructure platform featuring reverse proxying, identity management, observability, secrets management, SIEM workflows, and infrastructure-as-code patterns

The Cyber Centre and Technologies: A Meta-Analysis | *Accepted, Canadian Military Journal (forthcoming)*

- Authored an accepted meta-analysis on the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (Cyber Centre), synthesizing open-source sources on threat intelligence operations, detection capabilities, and critical infrastructure protection

EDUCATION

Master of Science (M.S.) Cybersecurity & Information Assurance | Western Governors University | Awarded 2024

Bachelor of Computer Science (BCompSci) | Dalhousie University | Awarded 2024

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) | Awarded 2026

Systems Security Certified Professional (SSCP) | Awarded 2023

AWS Certified Solutions Architect & Developer - Associate | Awarded 2022