Ashar S. Ahmed

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TECHNICAL SKILLS

SecOps / Detection: SIEM alert triage, EDR investigation, log correlation, alert tuning, detection logic (SQL, regex), incident response playbooks, threat modeling
Vulnerability Mgmt: CVE triage, vulnerability validation/prioritization, remediation coordination, evidence collection, compliance closure tracking
IAM / Endpoint: MFA, macOS/Windows hardening, FileVault, patch compliance, MDM policy enforcement, endpoint baselines, DNS filtering
Cloud / 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: SOC 2, ISO 27001, HIPAA-oriented controls, audit documentation, control evidence workflows

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Security Operations Analyst, Dr. Shariq Mumtaz Medicine Professional Corporation   **Jan. 2023 – Present**
  • Built and owns the full security program from scratch for a 4-person medical practice (4–5 endpoints): risk register, remediation SLAs, KPI reporting, and prioritized roadmap
  • Instrumented identity, endpoint, and network telemetry with correlation-driven triage; cut 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 HIPAA-oriented audit evidence; supported external IT vendors through vulnerability closure and compliance reviews

Software Engineer, Government of Canada   **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 migrating request validation from reCAPTCHA v2 to v3, removing user friction while increasing passive detection coverage across all form endpoints
  • Decomposed a monolithic API into discrete microservices, reducing individual call payloads and cutting data load times by **80%**
  • Implemented CI 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 Engineer 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

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

Systems Security Certified Professional (SSCP)   Awarded 2023
AWS Certified Solutions Architect & Developer - Associate   Awarded 2022
Associate of ISC2 (CISSP Exam Passed)   Awarded 2025