MOHAMMAD ABU-KHADER

Security Engineer – DevSecOps – Ethical Hacker

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity professional with hands-on experience in penetration testing, security engineering, and AI-driven solutions. Skilled in identifying and mitigating vulnerabilities across web applications, networks, and enterprise systems using tools such as Burp Suite, Nmap, Nessus, Splunk, and BloodHound. Experienced in hardening workstations, deploying MFA, and implementing CIS Benchmarks to strengthen security postures. Adept at drafting detailed advisories, compliance reports (ISO 27001, PCI DSS), and CVSS-based risk assessments. Proven ability to support incident response, threat hunting, and SIEM monitoring while collaborating with cross-functional teams to remediate security issues effectively. Entrepreneurial background as Co-Founder/CTO, demonstrating leadership, business acumen, and innovative problem-solving.

WORK HISTORY

Junior Security Engineer, 09/2024 - Current
Kalvad DMCC – (Part time, Dubai, UAE)

- Core Maintainer of Infraninja by Kalvad and Core Contributor of an internal inventory management and automation system
- Implemented strong authentication methods, increasing overall user account security within the organization.
- Participated in regular threat hunting activities aimed at proactively identifying potential risks before they materialize.
- Supported incident response efforts by performing thorough investigations and analysis of potential breaches.
- Collaborated with IT team members to ensure seamless integration of security measures in new projects.
- Conducted comprehensive vulnerability assessments for improved system protection.
- Utilized penetration testing tools to identify vulnerabilities before they could be exploited by malicious actors.
- Created Proxy services and dashboards using GoLang to monitor and log key and AI model usage for clients.

AI & Security Intern, 05/2025 - 11/2025
Teleperformance (TP) – (Full Time, Dubai, UAE)

- Monitored developments in global Cybersecurity regulations closely so that adjustments could be made promptly when necessary to maintain a robust security posture.
- Implemented multi-factor authentication systems designed to safeguard sensitive company information from unauthorized access attempts more effectively.
- Deployed Customer Support and Satisfaction AI agent to aid in customer retention and satisfaction.
- Reviewed employee access rights regularly to ensure appropriate permissions were granted based on job roles while limiting unnecessary exposure of confidential data resources internally.
- Exposed and reported Critical Physical security vulnerabilities and worked closely with the relevant teams to handle patching and containment.
- Authored a detailed security advisory outlining CVEs, compliance risks (ISO 27001, PCI DSS), and mitigation recommendations.
- Used a 2025 workstation hardening checklist to assess compliance across password policies, AV settings, patch status, and remote access configurations.
- Identified key misconfigurations and collaborated with IT to initiate remediation based on CIS Benchmarks.

Associate Penetration Tester, 10/2024 - 07/2025
Tunisia Level UP Innovation – (Contract, Dubai, UAE)

- Performed web application and network penetration testing using tools like Burp Suite, Nmap, and Bloodhound.
- Identified and reported vulnerabilities such as IDOR, SSTI, and privilege escalation paths.
- Prepared detailed penetration test reports with CVSS scoring, proof-of-concepts, and remediation recommendations.
- Collaborated with developers to validate fixes and ensure vulnerabilities were patched effectively.
- Conducted reconnaissance and threat modeling to simulate real-world attack scenarios.

Junior Security Engineer, 10/2024 - 07/2025
MMB IT Consulting LLC – (Remote, Dubai, UAE)

- Assisted in configuring and hardening firewalls, IDS/IPS, and endpoint security solutions to reduce attack surface.
- Conducted vulnerability scans (e.g., Nessus, OpenVAS) and analyzed results to support remediation efforts.
- Monitored SIEM alerts on Splunk, Wazuh and escalated critical incidents following incident response playbooks.

- Supported security audits by documenting findings, mitigation steps, and compliance alignment.
- Collaborated with senior engineers on patch management and secure configuration baselines.

Co-Founder/CTO, 03/2024 - 09/2024
LunaStudy – (Full Time, Dubai, UAE)

- Developed strong partnerships with other businesses to allow for collaboration and more significant opportunities for growth.
- Established a successful business by identifying market needs and developing innovative solutions.
- Implemented efficient operational processes to optimize productivity and resource allocation.
- Created organization's mission and vision statements for use by employees.
- Expanded the company's geographical reach, opening new markets and increasing profitability.
- Drove revenue growth with targeted sales initiatives, understanding and leveraging market trends effectively.
- Led company through successful rebranding effort, refreshing brand image to appeal to broader audience.

PROJECTS

InfraNinja - Infrastructure Automation Toolkit (https://github.com/KalvadTech/infraninja)

- Core Contributor to the development of a *Python-based* infrastructure automation toolkit built on *PyInfra* that simplifies deployment and security hardening across *Linux* distributions.
- Helped implement modules for automated deployments of services like *Netdata, NGINX, Docker* with security focus.
- Utilized *Jinja templating* for configurable and flexible deployment templates.
- Collaborated with team to create security-focused modules for *firewall configuration* and *SSH* hardening.
- Implemented code improvements and fixed issues to maintain code quality and project standards.

Multi-Cart Shop E-Commerce - Freelance

(https://github.com/xoity/false) (https://github.com/xoity/website-zaid)

- Architected and deployed a multi-brand e-commerce platform leveraging Docker containerization, Redis caching, and PostgreSQL databases across staging and production environments on DigitalOcean, implementing SSL/TLS configurations and database connection pooling for production-grade reliability.
- Implemented comprehensive security controls including request rate limiting, input validation/sanitization, security headers (CSP, HSTS, X-Frame-Options), secret management

via environment encryption, and vulnerability scanning with npm audit integration to maintain SOC 2 readiness.

- Managed complex integrations spanning Next.js frontend, Node.js backend, Stripe payment processing, multi-language support (i18n), and admin dashboards while performing root-cause analysis on deployment failures, dependency conflicts, and TypeScript compilation issues in production environments.
- Engineered end-to-end CI/CD workflows using GitHub Actions for automated testing, TypeScript compilation, and deployment with strict environment variable management, dependency scanning, and pre-merge security validations to ensure zero-downtime deployments.
- Designed and administered PostgreSQL schemas for multi-tenant data isolation, implemented database migrations, backup automation, and connection pooling (Redis) to handle high-concurrency transactions while maintaining data integrity and compliance with PCI DSS standards.

AuditAgent – Agentless Compliance and Audit Tool (https://github.com/xoity/AuditAgent)

- Architected and developed a Python framework from scratch to define, enforce, and audit iptables firewall policies declaratively.
- Engineered a policy audit engine for drift detection, comparing live server rules against a declared policy baseline.
- Implemented an intelligent automated remediation system with multiple risk-based strategies (e.g., conservative, aggressive) and automatic rollback capabilities.
- Designed for secure, agentless operation via SSH, supporting key-based authentication and SSH agent integration to eliminate hardcoded credentials.

SKILLS

- Vulnerability Assessment
- EDR
- Security Information and Event Management
- Django Development
- Git for Collaboration
- Postgresql Integration
- Python Programming
- Java Programming
- Network Security
- Penetration Testing
- IDS/IPS
- Network security monitoring
- Identity and Access management
- AWS
- Microsoft Copilot Studio
- Oracle Cloud Platform
- Microsoft Azure
- Red Team

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science: Cybersecurity, Expected in 06/2027
Canadian University Dubai (CUD) - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- 3.72 GPA
- Winner Of Engineering Demo Day Software Category
- Vice-President of Cybersecurity Club

High School Diploma: 08/2010 - 07/2023
Al Mawakeb School - Al Barsha - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- 3.84 GPA
- Recipient of President's Sheild, Senior Year, 2023
- AP Computer Science Principals 5/5 Score
- AP Biology, Calculus, Physics, 4/5 Score
- Head - Computer Science Club, 2023 to 2024

LANGUAGES

Arabic — Bilingual or Proficient (C2)

English — Bilingual or Proficient (C2)

French — Intermediate (B1)

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer Associate, *06/2026*

ISC2 Certified Cybersecurity (CC), *05/2026*

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 2025 Certified Foundations Associate, *10/2025*

Oracle Data Platform 2025 Certified Foundations Associate, *10/2025*

Oracle Cloud Infrastructure 2025 Certified AI Foundations Associate, *10/2025*

GitHub Foundations, *12/2024*

CISCO Ethical Hacker, *01/2025*