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 (SOC 2, ISO 27001, PHIPA). Holds SSCP, Associate of ISC2 (CISSP exam passed), 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: SOC 2, ISO 27001, 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

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