Brendon Matsikinya, MSBA

Williamsburg, VA| brendonmatsikinya@gmail.com | LinkedIn | 757-332-0212 | Portfolio

Competencies & Technical Proficiencies

I specialize in **cybersecurity operations, threat intelligence, and penetration testing**, using tools like **Wireshark, Metasploit, Burp Suite, and Splunk** to protect systems from attacks. I have hands-on experience with **PCI DSS, NIST, and ISO 27001 compliance**, ensuring secure access through **IAM, Active Directory, and AWS Cloud Security**. My expertise in **fraud detection and risk mitigation** includes leveraging **Python, SQL, Tableau, and Alteryx** to analyze threats and prevent security breaches. I've worked extensively in **enterprise payment security**, safeguarding **$10M+ in daily transactions** while maintaining **99.9% system uptime**. With a strong background in **database administration and system integration**, I've optimized **Postilion deployments and cut downtime by 50%**. Passionate about **network forensics and secure web applications**, I thrive on strengthening IT infrastructure and staying ahead of evolving cyber threats.

Professional Experience

IT Research Analyst – Web Application & Security Administration

Ai-spark, Chicago, IL (Dec 2024 – Present) (https://www.ai-spark.com/)

- Conduct comprehensive **penetration testing** on **networks, web applications, and social engineering** attacks using tools like **Burp Suite, Nmap, Metasploit, and OWASP ZAP**. Identifying **critical vulnerabilities.**
- Designed **SQL-based dashboards** in **Tableau & Alteryx** to monitor real-time **cybersecurity performance metrics**, incident response trends, and threat intelligence insights, enhancing **security decision-making.**
- Assisted in **hardening web applications** against OWASP Top 10 threats, ensuring compliance with **ISO 27001, NIST, and SOC 2 standards**. Collaborated to **secure coding practices** and **application security.**

Senior Systems Analyst & Banking Security

Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe (July 2023– August 2024)

- Ensured **99.9% uptime** for **500,000+ monthly transactions** by leading **Postilion deployments**, optimizing **system integrations**, and securing **$10 million+ in daily payments** through **PCI DSS-compliant** practices.
- Leveraged **Python, SQL, and Splunk** for **anomaly detection, transaction monitoring**, and fraud prevention, reducing **errors by 40%** and improving **system reliability by 20%**.
- Utilized **Oracle Database** and Postilion tools to **analyze and troubleshoot system failures**, cutting **downtime by 50%**, and ensuring seamless **real-time transaction processing**.

Cybersecurity Analyst

ABC Holdings (BancABC), Mt Pleasant, Zimbabwe (January 2020– June 2023)

- Threat Monitoring & Incident Response: Proactively monitored and responded to cyber threats using Wireshark and Sophos, reducing security incidents by 35% through real-time threat detection and mitigation.
- Penetration Testing & Vulnerability Management: Strengthened cyber defenses by conducting penetration testing and vulnerability assessments with Metasploit and Burp Suite, identifying and mitigating critical security risks.
- Compliance & Security Policy Implementation: Implemented PCI DSS-aligned security policies in collaboration with IT teams, improving compliance by 20% and reducing policy violations by 15%, ensuring robust security governance.
- Identity & Access Management (IAM) & Cloud Security: Designed and enforced IAM policies to control user access across Active Directory and AWS environments, enhancing cloud security and reducing unauthorized access risks.

Education

Master of Science in Business Analytics (MSBA)
Management Information Systems
William & Mary, Raymond A. Mason School of Business, Williamsburg, VA (May 2025)

Key Coursework: Network Security, Ethical Hacking, Cryptography, Risk Management, Compliance

Bachelors of Science (Hons) Degree in Computer Science (CTHSC)
Networking & Cybersecurity
University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe, Harare (December 2021) | GPA: 3.50
Key Coursework: Data Analysis, Statistical Modeling, ML, AI, Business Intelligence, Strategic Thinking

Certifications: Certified Ethical Hacking (Masters & Practical) - EC Council (Other 21 Certifications)