**Hector Acosta**

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⯍**InfoSec. Security Engineer** ⯍

**Summary of qualifications**

* Cyber Security certificate program with DeVry University Complete (2025) with a 4.0 GPA.
* Info Technology Essentials certificate program with DeVry University Complete (2025) with a 4.0 GPA.
* Currently enrolled in a Cybersecurity and Networking Associate degree with a 98% of completion with a 4.0 GPA.
* Extensive experience in operational oversight, process optimization, and stringent quality control, aiming to leverage expertise in complex system management and team leadership within the cybersecurity domain.
* Solid foundation in technical operations, including CNC machining and programming, combined with a strategic approach to safety and regulatory compliance, critical for enhancing cybersecurity measures.
* Proven track record in fostering collaboration and implementing effective training programs, enhancing team readiness and cybersecurity awareness.
* Focused on streamlining processes and boosting operational efficiency, essential for advancing cybersecurity frameworks and risk mitigation strategies.

**TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES**

**OS/Environments:** Windows • Linux • CNC Machine Operating Systems • Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES)
**Data Analysis Tools:** SolidWorks for design and manufacturing process optimization • Maximo for asset management

**Software:** SolidWorks (CAD/CAM) • UKG Workforce Central (for scheduling and time management) • Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint for data analysis, documentation, and presentations) • Wireshark (for data analysis)
**Hardware:** CNC Mills (Haas) • CNC Lathes (Puma) • Prototrak Machines • Standard computer hardware for office environments
**Programming Languages:** G-code for CNC machine programming • Python • JavaScript

**Ticketing Tools:** Experience with work order management through Maximo • Familiarity with ticketing systems for task and issue

tracking, adaptable to cybersecurity ticketing platforms

**EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS**

Cyber Security | Certification | DeVry University | 2025

Info Technology Essentials | Certification | DeVry University | 2025
Cybersecurity Course Completion | Coursera | 2024

Networking Fundamentals | Coursera | 2024

**aCADEMIC Experience**

**Cyber Range Program | DeVry University** **December 2024 to Present**Participate in an advanced Cyber Range training environment simulating real-world SOC analyst operations. Engage in live threat detection and incident response exercises using enterprise-grade tools such as SecurityOnion, Splunk, Palo Alto Networks, Suricata, and Elastic. Lead practice sessions for a collaborative team, focusing on log correlation, reverse engineering, and blue team methodologies. Execute and respond to diverse simulations, including APT campaigns, malware outbreaks, and coordinated defacement attacks.

**Key Achievements**

* **Leadership**: Co-led a multi-role team in weekly simulations, mentoring peers in detection workflows and log analysis.
* **Domain Expertise**: Hands-on experience with threat hunting, malware analysis, reverse engineering, and adversary emulation scenarios including Apache Web Defacement, Bitminer, and Trojan Mirage.
* **Technical Proficiency**: Fluent in using SecurityOnion, Splunk, Suricata, Zeek, Elastic Stack, and malware sandboxing techniques to investigate simulated incidents.
* **Operational Realism**: Responded to full-spectrum attack scenarios involving ransomware, phishing, insider threats, and lateral movement, reflecting modern SOC workflows.

**National Cyber League |** *DeVry University*  **April 2024 to Present**

Participate in the National Cyber League (NCL), a competitive, skills-focused cybersecurity event bridging academic knowledge and real-world industry expertise. Engaged in hands-on cybersecurity tasks, such as identifying vulnerabilities, conducting forensic analysis, and addressing realistic cybersecurity scenarios, demonstrating a strong command of industry-relevant skills.

**Key Achievements**

* **Ranking:** Achieved 240 out of 8573 participants, placing in the top 2.8% nationally and ranked 3 out of 61 among peers at DeVry
* **Team Performance:** Contributed and led the team to a rank of 25 out of 4779 teams in Spring 2025 (Top 0.5%) of participating teams
* **Domain Expertise:** Password Cracking, Cryptography, Log Analysis, Network Traffic Analysis, and Enumeration & Exploitation
* **Technical Proficiency:** *Kali Linux,* *Wireshark,* *Hashcat, John the Ripper*, *ImHex*, *Volatility 3*, *Binwalk*, *CeWL, CURL*

**Software Engineering Virtual Experience Program** | *Walmart USA/Forage |* March 2024

Successfully completed the Advanced Software Engineering Job Simulation, gaining hands-on experience solving complex technical challenges across multiple Walmart teams. Demonstrated a high level of expertise in algorithm design, data structure development, and database modeling, with a strong focus on practical solutions for real-world applications.

**Key Achievements**

* Tackled challenging projects for various Walmart teams, building solutions tailored to each department’s unique needs.
* Created a custom Java heap data structure specifically for Walmart’s shipping department, highlighting strong problem-solving and algorithmic proficiency.
* Developed a UML class diagram for a data processor with diverse operational modes and database connections, showing an analytical approach to software architecture.
* Designed a comprehensive ER diagram for a database that incorporated all requirements from Walmart’s pet department, ensuring data accuracy and functionality.

**Mastercard Cybersecurity Program** | Mastercard/Forage | March 2024
Served as an analyst on Mastercard’s Security Awareness Team, with a focus on detecting phishing threats, assessing security awareness needs, and implementing targeted training initiatives to mitigate risks.

**Key Achievements**

* Identified and documented phishing threats, contributing to Mastercard’s proactive threat detection and protection strategy.
* Developed and executed targeted training procedures to address identified gaps, demonstrating an understanding of security awareness and user education.
* Analyzed data to highlight training needs and presented findings in a clear, concise format, supporting decision-making processes within the security team.

**Telstra Cybersecurity Simulation** | Telstra/Forage | April 2024
Participated in a hands-on cybersecurity simulation focused on real-world scenarios involving incident response, risk management, and network analysis. Gained practical experience across multiple areas of cybersecurity, reinforcing essential skills for effective threat detection, response, and security engineering.

**Key Achievements**

* Applied problem-solving techniques to detect and respond to simulated cybersecurity incidents, showcasing proficiency in root cause analysis and rapid response.
* Utilized Python for network analysis and created solutions for real-world cybersecurity challenges, emphasizing coding efficiency and analytical skills.
* Developed security architecture solutions that adhered to compliance standards, demonstrating strong knowledge of governance frameworks and strategic security planning.

**AIG Shields Up Cybersecurity Program** | AIG/Forage | October 2024
Completed a cybersecurity program focused on threat analysis for AIG’s Cyber Defense Unit, providing an immersive experience in vulnerability assessment, incident response, and strategic threat mitigation.

**Key Achievements**

* Conducted detailed vulnerability assessments and identified key security threats, enhancing skills in risk evaluation and security advisory.
* Implemented security engineering practices and strategic architecture solutions, displaying competency in designing robust defense mechanisms.
* Leveraged Python and data analysis to support security operations, improving efficiency and accuracy in threat detection and reporting.

**Datacom Cybersecurity Job Simulation** | Datacom/Forage | October 2024
Participated in a cyber incident investigation simulation where I analyzed a sophisticated cyberattack and drafted a comprehensive incident report, detailing key cybersecurity recommendations and mitigation strategies.

**Key Achievements**

* Conducted an in-depth analysis of a simulated cyberattack using Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), enhancing skills in investigative techniques and security analysis.
* Assessed and managed risks associated with the simulated incident, showcasing strong analytical skills in threat management.
* Delivered a detailed report with actionable recommendations, improving written communication and technical reporting skills.

**pROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

***Advanced Operational Security Management:*** Spearheaded initiatives to implement and enforce stringent security protocols within operational processes, significantly reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing overall system security. ***Process Optimization and Efficiency:*** Utilized in-depth analysis and innovative programming techniques to streamline manufacturing processes, achieving substantial improvements in efficiency and productivity, ensuring adherence to best practice security measures. ***Team Leadership and Training:*** Led multidisciplinary teams through complex projects, emphasizing the importance of security awareness and best practices in every phase of operation. Developed and delivered comprehensive training programs focused on improving operational proficiency and security compliance. ***Technology Integration and System Security:*** Championed the integration of advanced CNC machinery and programming software, focusing on optimizing operational security and safeguarding against potential cybersecurity threats. ***Collaborative Project Execution:*** Fostered a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement, leading cross-functional teams in the execution of projects that aligned with strategic goals, including enhancing system security and operational efficiency.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**InfoSec Security Lead** | Arista Enterprise – Virtual Engineer | Remote **February 2025 to Present**
Lead enterprise-level cybersecurity efforts by developing and implementing robust security frameworks, policies, and governance programs. Apply strategic risk management and technical leadership across cloud-native environments to ensure system integrity, regulatory compliance, and business continuity.

**Key Achievements**
**Cybersecurity Framework Implementation:** Spearheaded the rollout of security initiatives aligned with NIST CSF 2.0, ISO/IEC 27001, SOC 2, and GDPR, ensuring full regulatory alignment across the organization.
**Security Governance Documentation:** Authored and standardized critical documentation, including the Information Security Policy, Phishing Simulation Strategy, and Vulnerability Management Program for a multi-tenant SaaS platform.
**Environment-wide Risk Management:** Led security assessments and compliance audits across development, staging, and production environments to proactively identify risks and enforce mitigation strategies.
**Infrastructure Remediation Leadership:** Chaired the Vulnerability Remediation Control Board (VRCB), directing triage, prioritization, and patch management workflows across Kubernetes-based cloud infrastructure.

**Freelance IT Support** | Life of Faith Church | Vineland, NJ **2023 to Present**
Provide essential IT support for church operations, ensuring smooth, secure, and reliable technology use across various devices and applications. Utilize technical knowledge to troubleshoot issues, improve security protocols, and support day-to-day tech needs.

**Key Achievements**

**Network Troubleshooting and Internet Support**: Resolved internet connectivity issues to maintain reliable access for staff and members, ensuring uninterrupted service for online activities.

**Password and Application Security Management**: Implemented secure password practices and managed application access to safeguard sensitive information and enhance security.

**User Access and Login Support**: Oversaw login credentials and access rights for multiple users, enhancing ease of access while maintaining security standards.

**Device Setup and Maintenance**: Connected, configured, and updated computers and peripheral devices to optimize performance and prolong equipment lifespan.

**Security Monitoring and Infrastructure**: Monitored security cameras and managed building security systems to ensure the safety of church property and personnel.

**Mold Shop Foreman |** *Arc America (Durand Glass) | Millville, NJ* **March 2015 to Present / 40hrs.**

Spearhead the enhancement of machine shop operations, emphasizing the importance of information security and regulatory compliance. Foster a culture of excellence, with a keen focus on optimizing resource utilization, establishing robust external partnerships for machinery maintenance, and rigorously enforcing safety and quality standards. Utilize a proactive approach to developing a structured training program that significantly uplifts the skillset of the team, boosting productivity, and ensuring adherence to the highest industry standards. Efficiently manage inventory and leverage technology for work orders and employee scheduling, streamlining operations, contributing to the organization’s overarching objectives. Collaborate with management, HR, and team members to aligning production schedules with the company’s strategic goals, underpinning commitment to excellence in every facet of operations.

**Key Achievements
Enhanced Operational Efficiency through Strategic Scheduling:** Developed a comprehensive 3-week schedule, optimizing team productivity and ensuring project deadlines were met or exceeded, demonstrating effective resource management. **Optimized Machinery Performance via External Partnerships:** Established vital relationships with external technicians, significantly reducing equipment downtime and enhancing overall operational efficiency through timely maintenance and services. **Safety Protocol Integration and Compliance Enforcement:** Led the initiative to communicate and implement safety protocols effectively, directly contributing to a safer work environment and adherence to regulatory compliance standards. **Structured Training Program Development:** Initiated and executed a structured training program for both new and experienced machinists, significantly enhancing their skills, productivity, and compliance with quality standards.
**Quality Control Leadership:** Directed the Quality Control department, instituting rigorous inspection schedules and guidance, ensuring the organization’s products consistently met or surpassed quality benchmarks. **Inventory Management and Process Optimization:** Masterfully managed material and equipment inventory, leveraging Maximo for work orders and UKG for scheduling, resulting in optimal stock levels and minimized resource shortages.

**Machinist |** *JD Machine | Vineland, NJ* **December 2013 to March 2015 / 40hrs.**

Specialized in operating and programming cutting-edge machinery, including Haas CNC mill machines, Puma CNC lathe machines, and prototrack machines. Expertise in setting up machinery, creating efficient programs, and conducting precise machine adjustments was instrumental in meeting and surpassing production requirements. Leveraged SolidWorks programming to significantly optimize manufacturing processes, demonstrating strong commitment to enhancing operational efficiency and product quality. Ability to quickly adapt to new technologies and implement improvements in the manufacturing process underscored dedication to excellence and continuous learning in the field of information security and regulatory compliance.

**Key Achievements
Advanced Machinery Operation and Efficiency:** Operated advanced Haas CNC mill and Puma CNC lathe machines with precision, significantly contributing to the streamlining of production processes and ensuring timely project completion. **Innovative Programming and Setup:** Excelled in creating and implementing efficient machine programs and setups, markedly improving production efficiency and quality through the adept use of SolidWorks. **Process Optimization through Technical Expertise:** Utilized in-depth technical knowledge to conduct critical machine adjustments, optimizing manufacturing processes and significantly reducing downtime. **Enhanced Manufacturing Accuracy:** Delivered high-quality products by precisely setting up machines and programming tasks, ensuring adherence to exact production specifications and quality standards. **Operational Improvement through SolidWorks:** Leveraged SolidWorks programming to enhance machine operations, demonstrating a commitment to innovation and continuous improvement in manufacturing processes. **Efficiency in Production Management:** Streamlined manufacturing operations through meticulous planning and execution of machine setups and programming, contributing to the overall efficiency and productivity of the team.