

Nicholas Alexander

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SUMMARY

Associate Penetration Tester with three years of hands-on work across authorized network, web application, and API security assessments in production-like environments. Conducts reconnaissance, enumeration, **vulnerability discovery**, manual validation, **controlled exploitation**, evidence collection, reporting, and remediation retesting with sound judgment. Applies TCP/IP, DNS, HTTP/HTTPS, Linux, Windows, Active Directory, **OWASP Top 10**, CVE, CVSS, and **rules of engagement** during practical testing. Uses Nmap, Burp Suite, Nessus, OpenVAS, Wireshark, Metasploit, ffuf, Gobuster, sqlmap, Python, Bash, and PowerShell to support repeatable assessments. Clear reports help developers, administrators, and security teams act quickly. Collaborative work with senior testers supports safe handling of complex attack paths and higher-risk findings. Ready to help Redwood Sentinel Security deliver credible assessments and practical remediation guidance.

EXPERIENCE

Associate Penetration Tester

January 2025 - Present

Blue Mesa Cyber Defense

Denver, CO

Leads authorized network, web application, and API assessments for production-like client environments. Converts rules of engagement into test plans, evidence standards, escalation thresholds, and client-ready reporting while coordinating with senior testers, developers, administrators, and security teams.

- Mapped **exposed services** with Nmap and Nessus across Linux and Windows targets, revealing overlooked attack surfaces.
- Validated web weaknesses through **Burp Suite**, ffuf, Gobuster, and manual testing, separating confirmed findings from **false positives**.
- Tested authentication, authorization, sessions, **access controls**, **input validation**, and business logic against OWASP-aligned criteria.
- Used Metasploit, sqlmap, Python, Bash, and **PowerShell** for controlled validation, preserving approved testing boundaries.
- Produced findings with evidence, reproduction steps, CVSS-informed severity, business impact, and practical remediation guidance.
- Retested fixes with developers and administrators, documenting verification results and escalating unresolved high-risk issues to senior testers.

Cybersecurity Analyst

September 2023 - December 2024

Northstar Security Operations

Colorado Springs, CO

Supported vulnerability assessments and focused penetration tests across internal networks, web applications, APIs, and Windows services. Built repeatable reconnaissance workflows, validated scanner output, prepared technical reports, and supported remediation discussions involving Active Directory, cloud environments, and multi-stage attack scenarios.

- Built Nmap, OpenVAS, Wireshark, and Python workflows that exposed ports, versions, interfaces, and attack surfaces.
- Validated scanner results through Burp Suite requests, HTTP analysis, configuration review, and repeatable test cases.
- Investigated **OWASP Top 10** issues, **insecure configurations**, access-control gaps, and authentication weaknesses for client review.
- Connected related weaknesses into attack-path narratives, clarifying exploitability, **technical impact**, and **business risk**.
- Prepared evidence packages and reports covering affected assets, severity, reproduction steps, impact, and **remediation recommendations**.
- Presented findings during remediation discussions and retested patched systems, escalating complex **Active Directory** and cloud scenarios.

PROJECTS

API Authorization Test Lab 📅 2024

A small test environment became a useful proving ground for broken access controls. Built API scenarios covering authentication, authorization, sessions, input validation, and business logic, then documented reproducible findings with remediation guidance.

Active Directory Attack Path Study 📅 2023

One overlooked permission can reshape an assessment. Studied Active Directory attack paths in a controlled lab, combining enumeration, credential analysis, validation, and reporting to explain risk without exceeding approved testing boundaries.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Capture the Flag Mentor, Colorado Springs Cyber Defense Club, 2024 - 2025
- Vulnerability Research Workshop Lead, University Cybersecurity Society, 2022 - 2023
- CompTIA Security+ Achievement, 2023

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Cybersecurity

2023

University of Colorado Colorado Springs GPA: 3.8

Colorado Springs, CO

Coursework: Network Security, Ethical Hacking, Digital Forensics, Secure Software Development

CERTIFICATIONS

- CompTIA Security+ 📅 2023
- eLearnSecurity Junior Penetration Tester (eJPT) 📅 2024

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Network Assessment Tools:** Nmap, Wireshark, Nessus
- **Web Testing Tools:** Burp Suite, ffuf, Gobuster
- **Exploitation Tools:** Metasploit, sqlmap, exploit validation
- **Vulnerability Scanning:** OpenVAS, Nessus, manual validation
- **Scripting Languages:** Python, Bash, PowerShell
- **Network Protocols:** TCP/IP, DNS, HTTP/HTTPS
- **Application Security:** OWASP Top 10, input validation, business logic
- **Identity Testing:** Authentication, authorization, Active Directory
- **Risk Assessment:** CVE, CVSS, exploitability analysis
- **Security Documentation:** Penetration reports, evidence collection, remediation guidance
- **Operating Systems:** Linux, Windows, Windows services
- **Testing Methodologies:** Rules of engagement, reconnaissance, enumeration

SKILLS

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Penetration Testing | • Enumeration | • Attack-Path Analysis | • Linux Security |
| • Vulnerability Assessment | • Vulnerability Validation | • Authentication Testing | • Windows Security |
| • API Security Testing | • OWASP Top 10 | • Access Controls | • Remediation Retesting |
| • Reconnaissance | • Controlled Exploitation | • Session Management | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Colorado Springs Cyber Defense Club, Capture the Flag Mentor
- University Cybersecurity Society, Vulnerability Research Workshop Lead
- OWASP Community Participant, Application Security Learning

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST