

Zayd Kirk

Penetration Testing Architect Cover Letter

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Hiring Team
Northstar Offensive Security Group
Denver, Colorado

Dear Hiring Team at Northstar Offensive Security Group,

I am applying for the **Penetration Testing Architect** role at Northstar Offensive Security Group. I have more than 15 years of experience in penetration testing, offensive security, application and API testing, cloud assessment, identity security, and security-testing program design. The chance to set technical direction for challenging assessments and help shape how offensive security works across an organization is a strong fit for my background.

In my current role at Cinder Peak Security, I lead assessments across SaaS applications, APIs, AWS workloads, Kubernetes clusters, corporate identity, and internal infrastructure. I created testing standards for rules of engagement, evidence collection, severity calibration, report review, and **remediation verification**. I have found attack paths by chaining IAM weaknesses, exposed secrets, and network-routing errors, then used **controlled exploitation** to show business impact.

My work includes advanced web application and API testing, **Active Directory attack-path analysis**, cloud architecture review, and source-code-assisted testing. At Blue Meridian Technologies, I built **CI/CD security validation** with authenticated API test harnesses and human review for high-risk findings. I write Python, Go, PowerShell, and Bash tools, and I use Burp Suite, Nmap, BloodHound, and related tools in hands-on assessments.

I enjoy reviewing systems before production, finding weaknesses that scanners miss, and turning technical evidence into clear design fixes. I have mentored penetration testers, reviewed high-risk reports, and guided engineering leaders without direct authority. My OSCP, OSWE, OSEP, and GIAC credentials support the practical experience I would bring to Northstar's senior individual-contributor role.

I would welcome a conversation about how I can help Northstar lead high-risk assessments, build repeatable testing methods, and improve security architecture.

Sincerely,

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