Aaren Nichols

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Education

Southern New Hampshire University Manchester, NH
Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity *Aug. 2021 – Jan 2025*
GPA: 3.75 / 4.00 — President's list 2023-2025

Experience

Server Administrator 2020 – 2023
Repulsion LTD

- Managed and maintained multiplayer server infrastructure supporting 1,000-3,000+ daily users, ensuring high availability, performance, and stable operations.
- Monitored server activity and logs to identify disruptive behavior, abuse patterns, and operational issues affecting system integrity, enforced server rules and policies.
- Coordinated with moderation and administrative teams to communicate updates, resolve incidents, and maintain operational continuity.
- Utilized administrative tools such as Battlemetrics and RCON to analyze activity trends and support decision-making.

Independent IT Support Technician 2021-Present
PlainField, IL

- Diagnosed and resolved hardware and software issues for personal computers, including POST failures, driver conflicts, and Windows boot errors.
- Performed troubleshooting and replacement of components including RAM, storage devices, GPUs, and power supplies.
- Installed and configured Windows operating systems, drivers, BIOS/UEFI settings, and essential software for multiple users.
- Assisted users with software installation, peripheral setup, Windows configuration, and general technical support.
- Tested completed systems for stability, functionality, and performance after deployment.

Projects

Ubuntu Server Administration Lab | SSH, System Administration, Networking

- Deployed and configured a headless Ubuntu Server, establishing a secure remote administration using SSH from a Windows workstation.
- Configured wireless networking using Netplan and resolved connectivity, DHCP, and DNS issues.
- Performed Linux system administration using command-line tools for log analysis, service management, and system monitoring.

Python Log Analysis Tool | Python, Pandas, Log Parsing, GitHub

- Developed a Python-based log parsing tool to analyze system log files and identify patterns such as failed logins, errors, and anomalies.
- Automated parsing and filtering of log data to support faster detection of potential security-relevant events.
- Generated structured output to assist with basic incident review and analysis workflows.

Secure Network Design | Cisco Packet Tracer, VLANs, Network Security

- Designed and implemented a segmented network architecture using Cisco Packet Tracer for a simulated enterprise hotel environment supporting up to 70 concurrent users.
- Configured VLANs to isolate traffic between staff systems, servers, and guest Wi-Fi to improve network security and segmentation.
- Implemented DHCP services and firewall rules to control network access and reduce exposure of internal systems.

Technical Skills

Security & monitoring: Log analysis, incident detection, threat identification, Wireshark network traffic analysis, Vulnerability scanning. .
Systems & Administration: Windows 10/11, Linux, Kali Linux, SSH remote administration, System installation, configuration, troubleshooting.
Networking & Security Infrastructure: TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP, Firewalls, VPNs, VLANs, Cisco Packet Tracer.
Scripting & Automation: Python, PowerShell, SQL.