

Joshua D. Penland

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SUMMARY

Cybersecurity professional with hands-on experience in penetration testing, malware analysis, system administration, and network security, backed by five years of operational and IT experience in regulated, security-conscious environments. Active DoD SECRET clearance, eligible for TS/SCI. Demonstrated ability to independently plan and execute end-to-end security assessments — from static and dynamic malware analysis through privilege-escalation research and remediation — and to document findings to a professional reporting standard.

CERTIFICATIONS

Held:

- CompTIA Security+ CE
- CompTIA Network+
- CompTIA CySA+
- CompTIA A+

In progress:

- CISSP (Certified Information Systems Security Professional)
- OSCP (OffSec Certified Professional)
- HTB CPTS (Hack The Box Certified Penetration Testing Specialist)

SELECTED TECHNICAL WORK

Full write-ups published at mizfitxtm.dev/writeups.

- **Aftermarket Android Head Unit Security Audit** — Independent pentest-style engagement on a consumer Android automotive head unit: static and dynamic malware analysis identified an active dropper tied to the BADBOX/MoYu Group campaign, a weak-integrity OTA update channel, and a reachable privilege-escalation path to root. Findings corroborated against third-party threat intelligence (Kaspersky, Nokia Deepfield) and remediated with a rebuilt, debloated firmware image.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Operations Analyst — United States Air Force

Nov 2021 – Present

- Conduct research and analysis supporting the 62d Airlift Wing's \$5M budget.
- Perform quality-examination duties alongside QA to verify service members receive correct entitlements based on pay grade and marital status.
- Serve in alternate duty roles: Alternate TASO (Terminal Area Security Officer), Cyber Security Administrator, Alternate Security Manager.
- Developed and tested a military pay-processing tool now in use across the entire AFCENT AOR to ensure timely processing of pay entitlements.

IT Support Specialist — Meraki Solar

Jan 2019 – Nov 2021

- Managed users, security policies, domains, and shared-drive data through Google Workspace Admin.
- Wrote automation scripts using PowerShell and GAM.
- Managed users and built reports/dashboards in Salesforce CRM.
- Triaged and resolved help-desk tickets via Asana and Monday.com.

- Administered Windows and macOS endpoints; procured, configured, and maintained computer assets company-wide.
- Implemented VoIP systems.

EDUCATION

Western Governors University — B.S., Cyber Security and Information Assurance (in progress, ~75% complete; expected graduation 2027). Cumulative GPA: 3.5.
Relevant coursework: Calculus; Applied Probability & Statistics; Introduction to Python; Introduction to Java; Network and Security — Foundations; Fundamentals of Information Security; Scripting and Programming — Applications; Linux Foundations.

SKILLS & TOOLS

Clearance:	Active DoD SECRET; eligible for TS/SCI
Operating Systems:	Linux (Debian/Arch/RHEL-family), Windows, Unix, Cisco IOS
Pentesting / Security:	Wireshark, Nmap, Metasploit, Nessus, Kali Linux, Aircrack-ng, Ghidra, jadx, apktool
Programming:	Python, Java, C, Bash/PowerShell scripting
Infrastructure:	Docker, Kubernetes, SQL Server, Oracle, Agile development & test methodologies
Other:	Systems security engineering, embedded systems practices, foundational malware analysis

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Named Airman of the Quarter by the 386th Air Expeditionary Wing Commander for exemplary service and leadership.
- Received multiple leadership letters of recommendation recognizing cybersecurity and development capability.
- Resolved an AOR-wide information-system conflict that was blocking US Treasury Eagle Cash Card processing.
- Led cyber-security training and exercises with the 386 AEW Cyber and Infrastructure teams to strengthen security posture in a deployed environment.