

Simon Blacks

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- Cyber Security graduate with experience in Network and Application Security, Pentesting, and Bug Bounty.
- Proficient in using industry-standard cyber security tools (Wireshark, Metasploit, Nmap, Nessus, Ghidra...).
- Free Software and privacy advocate specializing in reproducible builds and declarative management using Guix.
- Familiarity with compliance frameworks such as GDPR and ISO 27001.
- Passionate about IT, especially in cyber security and low-level domain (malware analysis, data forensics).

EXPERIENCE

Security System Administrator

Sai Ying Pun, Hong Kong

Odoo HK Limited

Oct 2024 - Present

- Implemented and maintained robust security infrastructure across multiple international offices (Hong Kong, Indonesia, Australia), including firewall and network configuration (OPNsense), ensuring consistent security posture and operational stability.
- Co-engineered a reproducible Odoo lab environment utilizing GNU Guix for declarative service management; wrote custom manifests (.scm) to strictly isolate dependencies and orchestrate atomic service updates.
- Developed and deployed custom automation scripts to streamline critical IT processes, such as user provisioning and event setup, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and reducing manual intervention.
- Ensured compliance with banking system governance standards through rigorous security assessments and documentation, contributing to the organization's adherence to regulatory requirements.
- Delivered comprehensive security and Linux training programs to employees, fostering a culture of security awareness and empowering users with essential technical skills for efficient Linux laptop utilization.

Penetration Tester

Sheung Wan, Hong Kong

Bare Cove Technology

Nov 2023 - Oct 2024

- Conducted thorough assessments for clients, gaining proficiency in identifying and exploiting security vulnerabilities.
- Engineered tools to automate penetration test reports, streamlining and enhancing the reporting process.
- Created tailored scripts to address unique challenges during penetration tests, improving overall testing efficiency.
- Developed effective communication skills, ensuring clear and accessible interactions with clients throughout the testing process.

Cyber Security Intern

Brussels, Belgium

Accenture

Feb 2023 - May 2023

- Spearheaded an end-to-end project, from conceptualization to successful production release, demonstrating project management and problem-solving abilities.
- Employed low-level programming using the Windows API to develop CliProtect, an innovative solution enabling real-time monitoring of incoming/outgoing data during RDP sessions (shared clipboard).
- Strengthened communication skills through interactions with the CISO and infrastructure team, effectively conveying project updates and addressing their input.
- Gained expertise in advanced techniques of Hooking and DLL Injection, deepening knowledge of cyber-security mechanisms.

System Administrator

Rhode Saint Genèse, Belgium

Powerdale

Jul 2022 - Aug 2022

- Implemented a secure WireGuard VPN solution, connecting car chargers to production servers, enhancing network security and enabling seamless communication.
- Successfully migrated production VMs to a private cloud infrastructure, optimizing resource allocation and enhancing scalability.
- Crafted a Ruby script that streamlined the setup of secure SSH keys and accounts, improving operational efficiency and security for production servers.
- Set up Zabbix and Elastic Search for comprehensive server and employee computer monitoring, ensuring prompt identification and resolution of potential issues.

EDUCATION

Henallux, Belgium

2020-2023

Bachelor of System Security

- Relevant Courses: Forensic and Cyber Attack Evidence, Governance, Offensive Security, Network Security, Web Security, Malware Analysis, Programming.
- Relevant Projects: Developed Ransomware in C, Implemented Remote Shell in C, Executed MSSQL DB Hardening, Administered Active Directory/LDAP, Strengthened Palo Alto/Cisco Network Security.
- Graduated with Distinction.

SKILLS

Security & Forensics: Ghidra, Volatility, Autopsy, Wireshark, Nmap, Burp Suite, CrowdSec, Metasploit

Languages: Assembly (x86/ARM/RISC-V), C/Zig, Rust/Go, Python/Perl/Raku, Guile/Lua

Infrastructure & OS: GNU Guix, Ansible, Active Directory, FreeBSD Jails, Docker/Podman, Bhyve, QEMU

Network & Firewalls: Palo Alto, pfSense/OPNsense, iptables/nftables, Wireguard, OpenVPN, NGINX

Data & Logging: QRadar, Elastic Stack, Zabbix, MySQL/Postgres, Redis

PROJECTS

Guix Channel & Substitute Server

2025

Maintained a custom GNU Guix Channel to distribute specialized Free Software packages. Currently architecting a binary substitute server to accelerate package deployment and ensure reproducible build artifacts.

View Repository

Zisp (Lisp Interpreter)

2025

Implemented a Lisp-dialect interpreter in Zig, featuring manual memory management, tokenization, and AST evaluation. Demonstrates deep understanding of language design and system programming.

View Code

Z8B (Virtual CPU Architecture)

2024

Designed a virtual 8-bit CPU architecture and emulator in Zig, coupled with a custom Assembler written in Perl. Simulates hardware fetch-decode-execute cycles and low-level register manipulation.

View Code

CSCB (Cyber Security Challenge Belgium)

2023

National Finalist (Ranked 21st/1100+). Collaborated in a team to solve advanced challenges in Binary Analysis, Cryptography, OSINT, and Forensics. demonstrated rapid problem-solving under competitive pressure.

More Info

Privacy-Focused Homelab

2023

Architected a self-hosted infrastructure using x86 hardware and containerization. Deployed Gitea, WireGuard VPN, and media services with RAID1 redundancy, prioritizing data sovereignty and secure remote access.

Read Blog

LANGUAGE

Languages: French (Native), English (Fluent)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Active Badminton and Squash player; regular runner.
- Musician (Drums, Saxophone, and Guitar).
- Hobbyist Programmer: Regular participant in "Advent of Code" challenges.
- CTF Competitor: Active on Root-Me and Hack The Box platforms.