Donovan Messer

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Education

University of Delaware
M.S. in Cybersecurity - Expected Graduation May 2026

B.S. in Computer & Information Sciences - Graduated May 2023

Experience

Optum
Associate I O Engineer, August 2024 – Current

- Commissioning/Decommissioning, patching, and securing RHEL servers in the commercial & federal environments. Tools utilized include Bash, Terraform, Zabbix, Tanium, and Zscaler.
- Exceeded metrics goals for 2024, such as over 99.9% uptime, significantly dropping outages, reduction of active vulnerabilities, and less servers experiencing slowness compared to 2023.
- Engaged in the Optum cloud initiative by doing training and overhauling infrastructure in Azure and GCP. AZ-900 and GCP Associate certifications in-progress.
- Assisting the overhaul of Change Healthcare's infrastructure by rebuilding crucial assets with modern design and security standards in place.
- Building weekly reports using proprietary reporting tools and Excel for applications in my organization to keep app owners aware of compliance status and open vulnerabilities.

TDP Associate, July 2023 – August 2024

- Rotation 1, 6 Months
    - Worked in Enterprise Security using Microsoft Defender, Splunk, FireEye, Recorded Future, OSINT tools, and other proprietary security tools to investigate security alerts, ensuring enterprise security.
- Rotation 2, 6 Months
    - Full-stack engineering role building out a broker portal with React, TypeScript, RESTful APIs, and MongoDB to aid in selection of healthcare plans for companies.

TDP Intern - Software Engineering, June 2022 - August 2022

- Used Java Selenium, MongoDB, and RESTful APIs to automate test cases as part of a quality assurance team.

University of Delaware
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, August 2022 – May 2023

- CISC275- Intro to Software Engineering, 150 students across two semesters
    - Ran labs, office hours, occasionally helped with lectures, and graded assignments for a class focusing on React TypeScript.

Projects & Competitions:

- **PDF Malware Analyzer** – Utilizes Machine Learning and Python to scan PDFs to determine if they are malware or not.
- **CTF Competitions** – Offensive security competitions where you utilize tools such as SQL Injection, Digital Forensics, Cryptography, x86 exploitation, XSS, and OSINT to solve challenges. Multiple top 10 finishes with the University of Delaware CTF team.