BECKER PENAFORT

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity professional with hands-on experience in threat detection, incident response, and security operations gained through Girls on Firewalls labs and two winning Capture the Flag (CTF) hackathons involving SQL/PHP injection exploitation, Linux exploitation, and multi-VPC cloud environments. Skilled in SIEM monitoring (Splunk, Microsoft Sentinel), phishing triage and response, endpoint protection, Nmap, Palo Alto, and Fortinet, with a strong foundation in enterprise networking, AWS security (VPC, Security Groups, CloudTrail), and Linux administration for systematic root cause analysis. Independently configured authentication, Row-Level Security (RLS), and role-based access control on a production web application, and administered Salesforce end-to-end, including a legacy platform migration, as department POC. Backed by 6+ years at a Fortune 500 enterprise in change management and business systems, bringing business context and communication skills many technical candidates lack. CompTIA Security+, Network+, A+, and AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner certified, currently pursuing CompTIA CySA+. Trilingual (English, Portuguese, Spanish). Maintains a personal home lab for continuous, hands-on security practice.

CORE COMPETENCIES & SKILLS

- Security Operations: SIEM (Splunk, Microsoft Sentinel), phishing triage & response, threat detection, alert monitoring, incident escalation & response, endpoint detection & response, root cause analysis
- Security Tools: Nmap, Palo Alto, Fortinet, Wireshark, tcpdump, Cisco IOS
- Identity & Access: RBAC, least-privilege enforcement, MFA, ADFS, Row-Level Security (RLS) policy design, access provisioning & reviews, IAM workflows
- Networking & Cloud: Cisco routing & switching, VLANs, STP, EtherChannel, OSPF, BGP, TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP, AWS (VPC, Subnets, Route Tables, Security Groups, EC2, CloudTrail)
- Systems: Linux/UNIX (SSH, CLI), Windows 10/11, Docker, Portainer, Kali Linux, VirtualBox, ServiceNow, JIRA
- Scripting & Automation: Python, Bash, PowerShell for log analysis, exploit development, and workflow automation
- Business Systems: Salesforce Administration, Power BI, SharePoint
- Languages: English (fluent), Portuguese (native), Spanish (fluent)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Business Analyst / Program Specialist | Travel + Leisure Co. | Remote *Jan 2025 - Present*

- Support execution of strategic initiative rollouts by coordinating stakeholder impact sessions and maintaining organized follow-up documentation aligned with Enterprise Change Management Office (ECMO) standards.
- Maintain readiness trackers and Change Key Indicators (CKIs) using Excel, Power BI, and SharePoint, monitoring stakeholder sentiment and change-related risk across IT, Legal, and Finance teams.
- Coordinate User Acceptance Testing (UAT) for new system features and support post-go-live stabilization by tracking user experience feedback, adoption challenges, and resolution needs across business units.

Network Engineer Intern (Cybersecurity & Network Security Focus) | Girls on Firewalls | Part-time*Jun 2024 - Present*

- Support security operations through hands-on labs covering Splunk SIEM, Microsoft Sentinel, Nmap, Palo Alto, and Fortinet — phishing triage, threat detection, endpoint protection, and incident response workflows.
- Troubleshoot network and security incidents involving TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP, routing, switching, and VLAN configurations on Linux-based systems using systematic root cause analysis and tools including Wireshark, tcpdump, and Cisco IOS commands.
- Utilize ServiceNow to manage incident, service request, and change management tickets, investigating, documenting, and resolving security- and network-related incidents in accordance with established SLAs.
- Configure and maintain AWS networking and security services, including VPCs, Security Groups, Internet/NAT Gateways, and EC2 networking, applying least-privilege principles to network segmentation.
- Configure, deploy, and troubleshoot enterprise network infrastructures using Cisco technologies, including Layer 2/Layer 3 switching, VLANs, STP, EtherChannel, OSPF, and BGP.
- Document network diagrams, implementation procedures, SOPs, and troubleshooting guides; collaborate with cloud, systems, and infrastructure teams during deployments, maintenance windows, and incident response.

Team Lead | Travel + Leisure Co. | Remote *Mar 2022 - Jan 2025*

- Led the department's migration from a legacy Atlassian platform to Salesforce, serving as the primary point of contact (POC) throughout implementation and user adoption.

- Administered Salesforce access by creating custom fields, configuring page layouts, and implementing role-based reporting access aligned with departmental business requirements.
- Monitored compliance audit scores of 95-98%, identifying gaps and developing action plans with escalation recommendations and decision support for leadership.
- Prevented $85K+ in potential financial exposure through analytical oversight of operational processes and sound judgment in escalation management.

Bilingual Customer Service Representative | Travel + Leisure Co. | Remote *Feb 2020 - Mar 2022*

- Resolved 30-35 daily inquiries with a focus on client satisfaction and effective listening, providing trilingual (English, Portuguese, Spanish) support across a diverse global membership base.
- Utilized mainframe systems and computer applications to manage accounts and document resolutions with accuracy and full compliance.

SELECTED TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Letorre Sports Performance Club — Access Control & Auth | Lovable, Supabase, Resend

- Configured Supabase authentication, Row-Level Security (RLS) policies, and role/tag-based access control to separate athlete, parent, and admin experiences on a production web platform.
- Authored a 148-test-case UAT workbook and wrote fix prompts for identified defects ahead of launch; resolved Resend email domain and deliverability configuration.

Personal Home Lab | Docker, Portainer, Kali Linux, Windows Server, VirtualBox, AWS

- Built and maintains a personal home lab on a Chuwi LarkBox (won at the BurbSec Chicago security conference), running Kali Linux, Windows Server, and AWS environments for continuous, self-directed security and networking practice.

PROJECTS & COMPETITIONS

- Cybersecurity Hackathon - Team Lead & Winning Team (2025): Led a winning team in a Capture the Flag (CTF) competition across multiple cloud VPCs, coordinating activities on 10+ virtual instances. Developed custom Python and Bash scripts to exploit vulnerable PHP web applications through SQL/PHP injection techniques, retrieve challenge files between segmented VPCs, and complete objectives while applying Linux, networking, cloud infrastructure, and cybersecurity best practices under time-sensitive conditions.
- Networking & Security Hackathon - Team Lead & Winner (2024): Directed a 6-person team through a live network build-out — BGP peering, VLAN segmentation, and switch topology — to reach and exfiltrate a target file from an exposed FTP server, resolving incidents with zero downtime.
- Hands-On Labs: Developed process documentation, automated workflows with Python/PowerShell, and conducted mock audits aligned with NIST/ISO standards — demonstrating continuous self-motivated learning.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance - Western Governors University | In Progress (2025-2027)

Associate of Science in Business Administration and Management - Lassen College/Valencia College | 2013-2017

CERTIFICATIONS

- CompTIA Security+ (Security Plus)
- CompTIA Network+ (Network Plus)
- CompTIA A+ (A Plus)
- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner (CCP)
- Google Foundations of Cybersecurity
- CompTIA CySA+ (Cybersecurity Analyst) — In Progress

Additional Recognition: CompTIA Secure Infrastructure Specialist (CSIS) — stackable certification (A+ / Network+ / Security+); CIOS

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY

- Head of PRIDE Diversity Group Newsletter - Travel + Leisure Co. (1,000+ readers/issue)
- Member, Veterans Engagement Committee - DEI programs supporting 15 peers across business units