JULIAN MERCER

CYBERSECURITY ENGINEER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity Engineer with 8+ years designing network and application security controls for regulated, high-traffic platforms. Builds segmentation, zero-trust access, and detection pipelines that reduce attack surface while keeping engineers productive.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Cybersecurity Engineer Aug 2022 - Present
Palo Alto Networks, Santa Clara, CA

- Designed network segmentation for 14 production environments, reducing lateral-movement paths identified in testing by 63%.
- Led a zero-trust access rollout covering 5,200 employees, retiring legacy VPN for 88% of internal application traffic.
- Wrote infrastructure-as-code firewall policies in Terraform with peer review, cutting rule-change lead time from five days to one.
- Built a detection pipeline feeding endpoint and network telemetry into the SIEM, adding coverage for 22 ATT&CK techniques.
- Mentored four engineers on threat modeling, producing reusable design-review checklists adopted by two product teams.

Security Engineer Jun 2019 - Jul 2022
Akamai Technologies, Cambridge, MA

- Hardened TLS and WAF configurations across 60 customer-facing services, eliminating all high-severity scan findings in two quarters.
- Automated certificate lifecycle management, removing manual renewals and preventing expiry-related outages for 18 months.
- Responded to eight security incidents as on-call engineer, completing containment steps within the internal 45-minute target.
- Introduced secrets scanning in CI pipelines, blocking 300+ credential commits before reaching shared repositories.

Network Security Engineer Aug 2016 - May 2019
Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA

- Managed firewall and IDS infrastructure for three data centers, maintaining 99.95% availability during audit periods.
- Remediated 120 penetration-test findings with application owners, closing every critical item before regulatory review.
- Standardized network device baselines using CIS benchmarks, raising configuration compliance from 71% to 94%.

CORE SKILLS

Security architecture | Network security | Zero trust | Firewall policy | Terraform | Threat modeling | SIEM integration | TLS and PKI | WAF tuning | Incident response | CIS benchmarks | Python | Linux | Cloud networking

EDUCATION

B.S. in Computer Engineering, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

CERTIFICATIONS

CISSP | GIAC Defensible Security Architecture (GDSA)