# JULIAN MERCER

**PENETRATION TESTER**

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Penetration Tester with 7+ years assessing web applications, networks, and APIs for enterprise and fintech clients. Delivers reproducible findings with clear exploit paths, business impact, and fixes that engineers can verify quickly.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Senior Penetration Tester** Sep 2022 - Present
**NCC Group, New York, NY**

- Led 24 web, API, and network assessments per year, delivering reports with reproducible steps and prioritized remediation guidance.
- Chained authorization flaws and exposed secrets to demonstrate account takeover, prompting a client to redesign its session handling.
- Ran internal network engagements using Active Directory attack paths, reaching domain-level access in 70% of scoped tests.
- Retested fixes within two weeks of delivery, confirming closure on 94% of high-severity findings.
- Mentored three junior testers on Burp Suite workflows and report writing, improving report review pass rates.
- Led scoping calls with client engineering teams, agreeing on rules of engagement and test windows that avoided production disruption on every engagement.
- Developed reusable Burp Suite extensions and Python scripts for authorization testing, cutting repeat web-app test setup time by about a third.

**Penetration Tester** Jun 2019 - Aug 2022
**Bishop Fox, Phoenix, AZ**

- Tested payment and mobile APIs against the OWASP Top 10, identifying 85 validated vulnerabilities across 19 engagements.
- Built custom Python tooling to automate parameter fuzzing, reducing time spent on repetitive testing roughly 30%.
- Presented findings to engineering and executive audiences, translating technical exploits into clear business-risk statements.
- Supported purple-team exercises with defenders, helping add detections for six attack techniques.
- Delivered post-engagement readouts to executives and developers, translating exploit chains into prioritized fixes that clients retested within 30 days.

**Application Security Associate** Jul 2017 - May 2019
**Capital One, Richmond, VA**

- Performed code-assisted security reviews on 30 internal applications, filing actionable tickets for development teams.
- Managed static-analysis findings in Fortify, helping teams reduce open high-severity issues 38%.
- Wrote secure coding guides for common injection and authentication issues, used in onboarding for 120 developers.

## CORE SKILLS

Web application testing | Network penetration testing | API security | Burp Suite | Metasploit | Active Directory attacks | OWASP Top 10 | Python | Exploit validation | Report writing | Cloud misconfiguration | Mobile app testing | Purple teaming | Retesting

## EDUCATION

**B.S. in Computer Science**, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, NY

## CERTIFICATIONS

Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP) | GIAC Web Application Penetration Tester (GWAPT)