

Nihal Atwal

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EDUCATION

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|--|---|
| The University of Queensland <i>Master of Cyber Security (Cyber Defence)</i> | Feb 2025 — Present <i>St Lucia, QLD, Australia</i> |
| • Semester 2 GPA: 6.75/7 Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence | |
| • Member of UQ Canoe Club | |
| Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies <i>Master of Computer Application (Computer Science)</i> | Jun 2024 — Jan 2025 <i>Mumbai, India</i> |
| • Completed Semester 1 while applying to universities in Australia | |
| University of Mumbai (H.R. College) <i>Bachelor of Management Studies (Finance)</i> | Jun 2019 — May 2022 <i>Mumbai, India</i> |
| • Cumulative GPA: 9.33/10 | |

WORK EXPERIENCE

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| Cyber Security Intern The University of Queensland | Feb 2026 — Present <i>St Lucia, QLD, Australia</i> |
| • Supporting cyber-security operations across multiple domains through a rotational internship programme (SOC, GRC, Outreach/Culture, AusCERT). | |
| Volunteer - IT Ummeed Child Development Center | Mar 2024 — Present <i>Mumbai, India - Remote</i> |
| • Ongoing consulting on web infrastructure design, secure hosting configuration, DNS and performance optimisation | |
| • Maintained and hardened web infrastructure, including Linux servers, domains, and hosting services, improving uptime and operational security | |
| • Led organisation-wide deployment of Bitwarden (credential manager), including access policies, user on-boarding, training, and documentation to improve password hygiene. | |
| • Triaged user access and endpoint security issues as part of daily IT support. | |
| • Reduced attack surface and simplified asset management by streamlining hosting services, lowering cost by 23%. | |
| Technical Sales Associate Newfold Digital (formerly Endurance International Group) | Jun 2022 — Apr 2024 <i>Mumbai, India</i> |
| • Managed and grew key accounts across India and the APAC region through technical advisory on web infrastructure, hosting, and digital services tailored to client risk, performance, and availability requirements | |
| • Worked with Server Specialists to implement secure and resilient hosting solutions, improving customer satisfaction and retention | |
| • Conducted consultative needs assessments and recommended scalable hosting and security add-ons (SSL, backups, access controls), helping clients strengthen resilience and service continuity. | |
| • Collaborated with Product and Marketing teams to ensure solutions aligned with organisational standards, service policies, and client compliance needs. | |
| • Achieved 15% YoY account growth while maintaining documentation and communication practices that supported transparency, issue resolution, and long-term client trust. | |

ACADEMIC PROJECTS & ASSESSMENTS

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| Dark Web Markets: Evolution, Trust and Security Mechanisms, and Disruption Strategies | link |
| Ransomware Payments: Legal and Ethical Dimensions | link |
| Cybersecurity Governance & Policy Report | link |

PERSONAL PROJECTS

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|--|----------------------|
| SnapWarden | link |
| • Bash script using Bitwarden CLI and rclone to export password vaults and store encrypted backups on S3-compatible storage. | |
| • Improves credential resilience and secure off-site recovery. | |
| • <i>Skills:</i> Bash, encryption, backups, S3, Docker | |

Nextcloud with S3

- Deployed self-hosted cloud storage on AWS using EC2, S3, and Auto Scaling.
- Provides privacy-focused alternative to Google Suite with scalable, redundant storage.
- *Skills:* AWS, EC2, S3, VPC, auto scaling

CLI Journal

[link](#)

- Command-line app for encrypted note storage using Linux-native tools.
- Designed for long-term maintainability and simple secure backups.
- *Skills:* Bash, encryption, Linux, Git

SecureQR Vault

- Offline, air-gapped system for generating encrypted QR codes of sensitive secrets using PGP (AES-256).
- Enables tamper-resistant cold storage without reliance on cloud platforms.
- *Skills:* Raspberry Pi, encryption, Linux, networking, Bash

SKILLS

Cloud & Infrastructure

- AWS (EC2, S3, VPC), OCI; secure cloud networking, access controls, and backup strategies
- Docker and containerised deployments; basic configuration management and monitoring

Systems & Application Administration

- Linux server administration (Apache, Nginx, MySQL, Samba, NFS)
- Server hardening, patching, UFW/firewall configuration, basic IDS (Fail2Ban)

Networking & Security

- VPN setup (WireGuard, OpenVPN), VLANs, DNS and domain management
- Credential and access management; SSO integration (Azure AD / Entra ID)

Governance, Risk & Compliance

- Exposure to ISO 27001, NIST CSF, and ACSC Essential Eight through coursework
- Understanding of security principles: access control, encryption, threat models, secure configuration

Cyber Security Coursework & Practical Exposure

- CYBR7001, CYBR7002, CYBR7003, CRIM7080 – covering risk, policy, incident fundamentals, network security, and legal/ethical considerations
- Hands-on: Linux hardening, VPNs, firewalls, Docker, Fail2Ban, secure cloud deployments
- Currently expanding skills in SIEM, EDR, and penetration testing tools through upcoming labs and projects

LANGUAGES AND TOOLS

- **Programming:** Python, C, SQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bash, PowerShell
- **Cloud & Infrastructure:** AWS, Azure, S3, Docker, Proxmox, Ansible, Linux
- **Security Tools:** Nmap, Metasploit, Wireshark, Fail2Ban

CERTIFICATIONS

- **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner:** [Amazon Web Services](#)