

Nihal Atwal

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EDUCATION

The University of Queensland <i>Master of Cyber Security (Cyber Defence)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Semester 2 GPA: 6.75/7 Dean's Commendation for Academic ExcellenceMember of UQ Canoe Club	Feb 2025 — Present <i>St Lucia, QLD, Australia</i>
Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies <i>Master of Computer Application (Computer Science)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Completed Semester 1 while applying to universities in Australia	Jun 2024 — Jan 2025 <i>Mumbai, India</i>
University of Mumbai (H.R. College) <i>Bachelor of Management Studies (Finance)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Cumulative GPA: 9.33/10	Jun 2019 — May 2022 <i>Mumbai, India</i>

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cyber Security Intern The University of Queensland <ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting cyber-security operations across multiple domains through a rotational internship programme (SOC, GRC, Outreach/Culture, AusCERT).	Feb 2026 — Present <i>St Lucia, QLD, Australia</i>
Volunteer - IT Ummeed Child Development Center <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ongoing consulting on web infrastructure design, secure hosting configuration, DNS and performance optimisationMaintained and hardened web infrastructure, including Linux servers, domains, and hosting services, improving uptime and operational securityLed 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%.	Mar 2024 — Present <i>Mumbai, India - Remote</i>
Technical Sales Associate Newfold Digital (formerly Endurance International Group) <ul style="list-style-type: none">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 requirementsWorked with Server Specialists to implement secure and resilient hosting solutions, improving customer satisfaction and retentionConducted 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.	Jun 2022 — Apr 2024 <i>Mumbai, India</i>

ACADEMIC PROJECTS & ASSESSMENTS

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

SnapWarden <ul style="list-style-type: none">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	link
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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](#)