# Atharva Kulkarni

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## Summary

Security professional with a GCHQ-accredited MSc in Applied Cyber Security and CEH V12 certification, actively transitioning into offensive security. Backed by three years of IT and enterprise infrastructure experience spanning Windows environments, Active Directory, device compliance, and network troubleshooting, with hands-on practical development in web application security assessment, OWASP Top 10 testing, and vulnerability identification across real-world systems. Actively developing penetration testing skills through CTF participation, TryHackMe, and direct security assessment of enterprise applications. Motivated by a clear long-term goal in red team operations, with a strong foundation in threat intelligence, exploitation techniques, and security reporting.

## Experience

**Technical Support Analyst** | Eurostop, United Kingdom 09/2025 to Present

- Deliver end-to-end support for enterprise EPOS platforms, overseeing transactional and operational data flow across in-store systems, middleware, head-office platforms, and third-party integrations.
- Conduct ongoing **security assessments** of internal systems including a cloud-based POS platform, stock control system, internal integrations, and a locally hosted LLM chat_bot, identifying potential vulnerabilities and contributing to the organisation's security posture.
- Diagnose and resolve data consistency, pricing, and product-lifecycle issues through cross-system analysis, identifying root causes, discrepancies, and process failures within large data sets.
- Support external system integrations, incident investigation, and operational controls, ensuring **secure access**, reliable synchronisation, data integrity, and continuity across retail environments.

**DSS Engineer** | Diageo, United Kingdom 02/2025 to 09/2025

- Delivered frontline IT support and troubleshooting for enterprise users across hardware, Network, Windows OS, and application-level issues, with a focus on **asset security and user account management**.
- Implemented and advised on **security-focused endpoint management practices**, including Intune-Autopilot integration, tenant lock, and device compliance enforcement, strengthening organisational asset protection and reducing exposure.
- Resolved issues related to **Active Directory**, authentication, Wi-Fi, and device compliance; contributed to Zero Trust-aligned access controls and centralised asset tracking via Nexthink and ServiceNow.

**Technical Support Engineer** | Concentrix, United Kingdom 01/2024 to 01/2025

- Provided technical support to BT Broadband customers, improving query resolution efficiency by **35%**.
- Demonstrated proficiency in troubleshooting broadband services, mobile telephony issues, and home tech products, resulting in an **80% decrease** in escalated tickets.
- Advised customers on **cybersecurity scams and phishing techniques**, reducing instances of security breaches and enhancing cyber awareness across a broad customer base.

**Network Operations Specialist** | Clariant India Ltd, Mumbai 01/2022 to 07/2022

- Provided technical support via ServiceNow, reducing network outage response time by **30%** and configuring over 250 new machines, increasing operational efficiency by **20%**.
- Enhanced organisational security by implementing **robust endpoint security configurations**, contributing to a **25% decrease in security breaches** and a 20% reduction in security incidents.
- Maintained and configured network switches and routers; developed **cybersecurity awareness training programmes**, increasing employee security awareness by 15%.

## Education

**Master of Science: Applied Cyber Security** | Queen's University Belfast 2022 to 2023

GCHQ-accredited MSc. Modules: **Network Security & Monitoring**, Malware Analysis, Software Assurance, Computer Forensics, and Applied Cryptography. Dissertation: **Machine Learning Attacks on Physical Unclonable Functions**.

**Bachelor of Science: Computer Science** | Pillai's College of Arts, Commerce and Sciences 2019 to 2022

Studied core network technologies, routing protocols, **Cisco network infrastructure**, and network security.

## Skills

- Penetration Testing & Vulnerability Assessment
- Network & Host Enumeration / Reconnaissance
- Firewall & Network Security Configuration
- Active Directory & Endpoint Security (Intune, Zero Trust)
- Vulnerability Reporting & Technical Documentation
- SQL Query – System Diagnostics & Reporting
- Web Application Security Testing (OWASP Top 10)
- Manual Security Assessments & Exploit Identification
- Threat Intelligence (OSINT, MITRE ATT&CK)
- Scripting for Security Automation (Python, Bash)
- Red Team Concepts & Ethical Hacking (THM, CTF)
- Burp Suite & Web Application Tooling

## Certifications

- **Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH V12)**: ECC9421760853
- Fortinet Network Security Expert Level 1: PggZRhVh2p
- Fortinet Network Security Expert Level 2: uTMYfCWHCd
- **TryHackMe – Junior Penetration Testing Path** (in progress)

## Projects

**Machine Learning Attacks on Physical Unclonable Functions** | Queen's University Belfast 2023

Dissertation research investigating machine learning vulnerabilities in hardware security primitives. Employed Generative Adversarial Networks (GANs) to synthesise PUF challenge-response pairs, enabling modelling attacks and evaluation of countermeasures. Demonstrated ability to design, execute, and analyse offensive security research at graduate level.

**Honey Encryption: Enhancing Password-Based Security** | Queen's University Belfast 2023

Investigated Honey Encryption (HE) as a defence against brute-force attacks on password-protected systems. Designed a conceptual framework and proposed a developer API integrating HE to generate realistic decoy plaintext on incorrect password attempts. Applied to internet banking, cloud accounts, and personal data protection scenarios.

**Digital Forensics: NTFS File Recovery on Windows 10** | Queen's University Belfast 2022

Practical forensic investigation of deleted file recovery on Windows 10 NTFS using command-line tools, disk imaging, MFT analysis, and slack space examination. Assessed method effectiveness and documented best practices for evidence preservation. Directly applicable to incident response, data breach investigation, and digital forensics.