

Cole Blahut

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EDUCATION

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA

Expected May 2028

Candidate for Bachelor of Cybersecurity Analytics and Operations

GPA: 3.6 + Deans List | *Clubs/Activities*: Cybersecurity Consulting Club, HackPSU

EXPERIENCE/LEADERSHIP

Cybersecurity Consulting Club | *Officer*, State College, PA

September 2025 – Present

- Support club operations and member engagement by helping plan events, coordinate club activities, and organize professional development opportunities focused on cybersecurity consulting, risk management, and industry practices.
- Collaborate with club officers and members to coordinate event logistics, communicate schedules and responsibilities, recruit prospective members, and support activities that introduce students to cybersecurity consulting approaches and opportunities.

Audits Without Anxiety | *Cyber Security Consultant Intern*, Dresher, PA

May 2026 – August 2026

- Supported 3 client cybersecurity assessment engagements by assisting senior consultants with security control reviews, compliance documentation, and the identification of potential gaps in information security practices.
- Assisted with PCI DSS assessments by reviewing 200+ evidence items, mapping documentation to relevant security requirements, and examining controls for access management, encryption, vulnerability management, and security logging.
- Contributed to assessment reporting by documenting potential control gaps, tracking remediation items, and mapping evidence to 45 PCI DSS sub-requirements to improve documentation traceability and support client compliance assessments.

Ocean State Job Lot | *Salesperson*, Montgomeryville, PA

July 2024 – August 2025

- Assisted shoppers with product inquiries, purchases, & in-store concerns by giving product guidance, resolving issues quickly to improve customer satisfaction, and delivering timely customer service to promote satisfaction and a positive experience.
- Recognized as the top sales associate for customer membership sign-ups by explaining membership benefits, encouraging affiliate enrollment, and building positive customer relationships to increase participation in the store's membership program.

PROJECTS

Consulting Case Study: SolarWinds Impact and Remediation Strategy

- Analyzed the SolarWinds SUNBURST supply-chain attack using public filings, court documents, government reports, and industry research to evaluate the attack timelines, investigate the root causes, and assess the financial and operational impacts.
- Developed an eight-point cybersecurity remediation strategy covering software integrity, MFA, privileged access, credential security, logging, and incident response; prioritized recommendations by impact, complexity, cost, and a 90-day roadmap.

Security Operations Assessment and Risk Reduction Plan

- Constructed a security operations assessment to evaluate authentication activity, identify potential identity-security weaknesses, and develop risk-based recommendations to strengthen access security and improve organization security monitoring.
- Used Python and pandas to analyze 600 synthetic authentication events, examining repeated login failures, MFA coverage, and unusual sign-in patterns; translated analytical findings into a prioritized risk register and a 30/60/90-day remediation roadmap.
- Analyzed 600 authentication events to establish an identity-security risk baseline, prioritize remediation actions, guide security improvements, support risk-based decision-making, and help measure progress against defined security objectives.

AI-Assisted Software Reverse Engineering & Behavioral Analysis

- Developed an AI-assisted software analysis workflow to investigate unfamiliar programs, characterize their behavior, and document functionality through systematic testing and evidence-based analysis without relying solely on source code.
- Built a Python-based black-box testing framework using controlled inputs, output analysis, error-path testing, recursive file traversal, file-filtering validation, JSON output inspection, and SHA-256 hash comparisons to evaluate software behavior.
- Produced a reproducible testing workflow, regression tests, and an evidence-back behavioral specification covering file-processing behavior, output consistency, and content integrity, using independently verified AI-generated hypotheses.

SKILLS

Programming: Python, JavaScript, SQL, C/C++, HTML, CSS, Java, R, PowerShell

Security: Splunk, Wireshark, NMAP, Metasploit, VMware, Ghidra, Cisco Packet Tracer, Nessus, Autopsy

Networking: TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP, NAT, Subnetting, Firewalls