

Dharma Bandaru

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Denver, CO

SUMMARY

- Security-focused Software Engineer with hands-on experience securing **cloud-native and hybrid infrastructure** at enterprise scale. Specializing in **Application Security (OWASP Top 10), Secure SDLC, Container Security, and DevSecOps automation**. Integrated SAST, SCA, and container scanning (SonarQube, WIZ, Prisma Cloud) into CI/CD pipelines. Collaborated with pen testing teams on IDOR, XSS, and prompt injection remediation. Proficient in **Java, Python, and AWS Security (Security Specialty certified)**. Drove **\$250K+ annual savings** through tooling consolidation.

EXPERIENCE

- **Ameren Corporation (NYSE:AEE)** Saint Louis, MO
Senior Software Engineer – Platform Security & Generative AI *Aug 2023 – Present*
 - **Secure SDLC Integration:** Established secure CI/CD pipelines using **Jenkins, SonarQube (SAST), WIZ, and Prisma Cloud**, automating security checks and vulnerability detection across the development lifecycle.
 - **Container Security & Hardening:** Built and hardened **Docker images** with minimal base images, enforced pre-deployment scanning via WIZ and Prisma Cloud, and managed container vulnerability remediation.
 - **Vulnerability Assessment & Pen Testing:** Collaborated with external pen testing teams to identify and remediate **IDOR, XSS, and anti-malware bypass** vulnerabilities. Reported findings and drove remediation with engineering teams.
 - **Adversarial AI & LLM Security:** Implemented prompt injection protection and output guardrails using **Amazon Comprehend**, aligning with **OWASP Top 10 for LLMs**. Collaborated with architects reviewing AI products for data poisoning and model inversion risks.
 - **Security Assessment & Architecture Review:** Conducted security reviews for AI platform project, evaluating Technology Work Assessments and identifying operational risks in proposed solutions.
 - **Artifact Repository Security:** Collaborated on **JFrog Artifactory** setup for secure artifact storage, dependency management, and vulnerability scanning (SCA).
 - **Athena AI Platform:** Architected enterprise RAG platform modules using **LangGraph, LangChain, Anthropic Claude, MongoDB, and Amazon Kendra**. Deployed **Databricks Mosaic AI evaluation** via Terraform, reducing erroneous outputs by **25%**.
 - **Secrets Management & Monitoring:** Leveraged **AWS Secrets Manager** with **24-hour key rotation** under least-privilege IAM controls. Configured log forwarding to **Splunk** for centralized security monitoring and alerting.
- **MTX Group** Frisco, TX
Team Lead – Cloud Security & Integrations / Sr. Consultant *Mar 2021 – Jul 2023*
 - **Cloud Security Implementation:** Deployed **AWS GuardDuty, Security Hub, Inspector**, and centralized **CloudTrail** logging across **15+ AWS accounts**, improving threat detection by **50%**.
 - **Security Tooling Consolidation:** Drove **\$250,000+** annual savings by consolidating security tooling, optimizing AWS configurations, and automating security workflows.
 - **Infrastructure-as-Code for Security:** Developed **Terraform** configurations for IAM policies, security groups, and resource provisioning, deploying security controls via automated pipelines to production.
 - **Threat Detection & Alerting:** Designed real-time threat notification system (email/SMS), improving incident response times across AWS environments.
 - **Python API Security:** Developed and secured **15+ Python APIs** with input validation and authentication controls, improving interoperability by **30%**.
 - **Team Leadership:** Led **4 engineers**, delivering **10+ enterprise projects** on time while promoting security-first practices and improving efficiency by **20%**.
- **Amazon** Madison, WI
Software Development Engineering Intern *May 2020 – Aug 2020*
 - **Java Application Development:** Built **Java/Spring-based** automated categorization system for Shopbop and EastDane, eliminating manual work and saving **350 hours annually**.
 - **Testing & Code Quality:** Implemented unit tests using **JUnit and Mockito**, reducing bug reports by **30%**; utilized AWS S3 for secure data transfers.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Application Security:** OWASP Top 10, OWASP Top 10 for LLMs, Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing Collaboration
- **Security Tooling:** SonarQube (SAST), WIZ, Prisma Cloud, AWS Inspector, GuardDuty, Security Hub, CyberArk, Splunk, JFrog Artifactory
- **DevSecOps & CI/CD:** Jenkins, Secure CI/CD Pipelines, Docker Image Hardening, Container Security, Secrets Management (AWS Secrets Manager)
- **Cloud Security:** AWS (Security Specialty Certified), Azure, GCP, Terraform (IaC), IAM Policy Management, CloudTrail, S3, Lambda
- **Programming:** Java, Python, Bash, TypeScript, JavaScript, Groovy, Spring Framework, Next.js, Node.js
- **AI & ML Security:** LangGraph, LangChain, Anthropic Claude, RAG Systems, Prompt Injection Defense, Databricks Mosaic AI, Amazon Kendra
- **Testing:** JUnit, Jest, Pytest, ReadyAPI Test Automation, Mockito
- **Methodologies:** Secure SDLC, Agile/Scaled Agile, Git, Jira, Confluence

EDUCATION

- **New Mexico State University** Las Cruces, NM
Master of Science in Computer Science
- **Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D Institute** Chennai, India
Bachelor of Technology in Computer Science

CERTIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

- **AWS Certifications:** Security Specialty, Machine Learning Specialty, Solutions Architect-Associate, Developer, Cloud Practitioner
- **Additional Certifications:** Databricks Academy Accreditation - Fundamentals
- **Awards:** MTX Group: Performance Excellence Award - Q3 2022; NMSU: Scholar Dollar (Top Performer - Dept. of CS, Spring 2019); HackerRank: Programming Gold Badge

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **New Mexico State University** Las Cruces, NM
Graduate Teaching Assistant - Computer Science Jan 2019 – Aug 2020
 - **Teaching & Mentoring:** Taught and graded coursework for 5 core CS courses including Object-Oriented Programming, Data Structures & Algorithms, and Machine Programming.
- **Tamkang University** Taiwan
Research Associate - Python Developer Jan 2018 – Jun 2018
 - **ML Research:** Developed sentiment analysis methodology using Python and machine learning techniques on Twitter data.