Charlen Baloukjy

Catasauqua, PA | 610-379-6037 | charlenbaloukjy@outlook.com
linkedin.com/in/charlenbaloukjy | charlenb.github.io | github.com/CharlenB/TryHackMe-Writeups

SUMMARY

Security+ certified Computer Science graduate ranked in the top 1% globally on TryHackMe, with 270+ hands-on labs and CTFs. I combine offensive skills (web exploitation, enumeration) with defensive skills (SIEM log analysis, traffic analysis) to understand how attacks work and how to catch them. Built an Active Directory home lab and led a 5-person team through a full-stack capstone project. Seeking entry-level cybersecurity or IT roles.

EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania *May 2026*
GPA: 3.4 | Cybersecurity Certificate | Languages: English (fluent), Arabic (fluent), German (intermediate)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Offensive Security: Vulnerability Assessment, Penetration Testing, Web Application Security, Nmap, Burp Suite, Metasploit, SQLMap, Hydra, Gobuster
Network & Defense: Wireshark, Splunk & ELK Stack (SIEM), TCP/IP, Ports & Protocols, Firewalls, Active Directory, Microsoft 365
Frameworks: OWASP Top 10, OWASP Top 10 for LLMs, MITRE ATT&CK, MITRE ATLAS
Programming & Scripting: Python, JavaScript, TypeScript, C, C++, Bash, SQL, PowerShell

PROJECTS

Offensive & Defensive Security Labs & CTFs | TryHackMe (Top 1% globally) *Oct. 2025 – Present*

- Completed 270+ labs and CTFs, practicing enumeration, privilege escalation, and web exploitation
- Exploited SQL injection with SQLMap and Burp Suite, brute-forced web and SSH logins with Hydra, and enumerated directories, subdomains, and virtual hosts with Gobuster
- Investigated simulated incidents in Splunk (SPL) and the Elastic Stack (KQL), building searches, visualizations, and dashboards to detect anomalous VPN logins and identify indicators of compromise (IOCs)
- Analyzed network traffic in Wireshark to detect Nmap scans, ARP poisoning, DNS/ICMP tunneling, and cleartext credentials
- Published 3 CTF write-ups documenting methodology and findings: github.com/CharlenB/TryHackMe-Writeups

EcoSmart: Smart Environmental Monitoring System | Kutztown University *Aug. 2025 – May 2026*

- Led a 5-person team to design and deliver a full-stack air quality monitoring system tracking temperature, humidity, CO2, CO, CH2O, TVOC, and natural gas
- Integrated hardware sensors with a React/TypeScript frontend, Supabase backend, and Vercel deployment
- Directed task assignment, testing, and system design across frontend, backend, and hardware workstreams

Active Directory Home Lab | VMware

- Built a Windows Server and client environment in VMware to practice Active Directory administration, creating Group Policy Objects (GPOs), resetting user passwords, and reviewing event logs

EXPERIENCE

Warehouse Associate | ALDI Distribution Center *Oct. 2024 – June 2026*

- Picked, loaded, and staged orders in a high-volume distribution environment while following safety procedures and accuracy standards
- Worked with a team to meet daily targets and keep inventory records accurate

Customer Service Associate | BJ's Wholesale Club *Nov. 2021 – June 2024*

- Assisted members with purchases, membership questions, and issue resolution in a high-traffic retail setting
- Resolved complaints calmly and communicated clearly with customers and coworkers

CERTIFICATIONS

CompTIA Security+ (Oct. 2026)
TryHackMe Jr Penetration Tester (Jan. 2026) – pentest methodology, enumeration, exploitation
TryHackMe Web Application Pentesting (Mar. 2026) – SQL injection, broken authentication, OWASP Top 10
TryHackMe AI Security (Oct. 2026) – LLM attacks and defenses, OWASP Top 10 for LLMs
TryHackMe SOC Level 1 (Oct. 2026) – SIEM investigation, traffic analysis, incident triage