

FERAS ALQAHTANI

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Native Arabic Speaker with fluent English

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A Cybersecurity GRC Specialist with expertise in governance frameworks, risk management, and compliance. Skilled in assessing and mitigating risks while ensuring alignment with standards such as NCA, SAMA, ISO 27001, and NIST. Proficient in applying security frameworks and methodologies to maintain confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems and data. Adept at bridging technical controls with organizational policies to enhance cybersecurity posture and ensure audit readiness.

EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2020

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY, MESA, ARIZONA, USA

GPA: **3.15 out of 4**

Major: **Information Technology**

Secondary Focus Area: **Cybersecurity**

EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2022 – PRESENT

SAUDI ARAMCO (DIRECT HIRE)

ROLES: Cybersecurity Risk Analyst, Cybersecurity GRC Specialist

FEB 2021 – JUNE 2022

SECURITY MATTERZ

ROLES: SOC Analyst, SOC Administrator

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2023 – PRESENT

SAUDI ARAMCO – GOVERNANCE, RISK AND COMPLIANCE (UPSTREAM DIGITAL CENTER):

Cybersecurity Governance Management

- Develop, review, and align cybersecurity processes, procedures, baselines (e.g., Security Configuration Baselines), and agreements (OLAs, SLAs).
- Conduct project security reviews to ensure safe deployment of technology and eliminate duplications.
- Implement, review, and update cybersecurity governance standards, policies, and procedures.

Cybersecurity Risk Management

- Conduct and coordinate risk assessments, evaluations, mitigation, and treatment plans.
- Identify, collect, and validate cybersecurity risk scenarios.
- Perform risk analysis to support governance decisions and address gaps in cybersecurity standards.
- Report and escalate identified risks as needed.
- Consult stakeholders on risk remediation or mitigation actions.
- Advise governance teams on enhancements following risk identification.
- Conduct re-assessments on previously identified cyber risks.
- Conduct and coordinate risk evaluations, mitigation strategies, and treatment plans.

Cybersecurity Compliance Management

- Perform periodic compliance assessments to ensure adherence to regulations, policies, and standards.
- Implement and maintain compliance programs aligned with regulatory frameworks such as NCA, SAMA, ISO 27001, and NIST.
- Identify gaps and non-compliance issues and recommend corrective actions or risk mitigation strategies.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to ensure compliance obligations are understood and integrated into business processes.
- Prepare compliance reports, dashboards, and documentation for management and auditors.
- Support internal and external audits, ensuring readiness and timely response to findings.

- Advise on updates to policies, standards, and controls to maintain regulatory alignment and organizational cybersecurity posture.
- Lead cybersecurity audits and maturity programs.

Cybersecurity Awareness Programs

- Conduct management awareness sessions to align the cybersecurity program with business objectives.
- Deliver employee awareness sessions on cyber threats (e.g., live hacking demos, AI cyber risks).
- Organize hackathons that generate innovative ideas to enhance cybersecurity culture.
- Organized Capture the Flag (CTF) events to identify and engage highly capable cybersecurity talent.

JUNE 2022 – JUNE 2023

SAUDI ARAMCO INFORMATION SECURITY DEPARTMENT (CISO OFFICE) – INFORMATION SECURITY RISK MANAGEMENT:

- Conduct risk assessments on both planned and ad-hoc bases to identify potential cybersecurity risks associated with functions, processes, and IT services.
- Identify, collect, and validate potential cybersecurity risk scenarios.
- Perform risk analysis to support governance decisions regarding required changes or gaps in cybersecurity standards.
- Report and escalate identified risks as required.
- Consult with stakeholders on proposed risk remediation or mitigation actions.
- Advise governance teams on enhancements needed after identifying potential risks.
- Conduct risk re-assessments on previously identified cyber risks.

FEB 2021 – JUNE 2022

SECURITY MATTERZ – OUTSOURCE FOR BANKING SECTOR & GOVERMENTAL SECTOR:

- SUPLUNK (SIEM SOLUTION) – LOGS ANALYSIS & THREAT MONITORING, DETECTION
- THREATQ – THREAT INTELLIGENCE PLATFORM
- FORTIGATE – FIREWALL
- MS DEFENDER – ENDPOINTS DETECTION AND RESPONSE
- NX FIREYE – NETWORK DETECTION AND RESPONSE
- HX FIREEYE - ENDPOINTS DETECTION AND RESPONSE
- ETP FIREEYE – EMAIL SECURITY
- CLEARSWIFT – EMAIL SECURITY
- FORCEPOINT – PROXY
- CLOUDFLARE – WEB APPLICATION FIREWALL
- F5 - WEB APPLICATION FIREWALL
- NSFOCUS – ANTI-DDOS

CERTIFICATIONS

2025 (30% ...)

CERTIFIED INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGER (CISM) – IN PROGRESS

2024

CERTIFIED IN RISK AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS CONTROL (CRISC)

2022

ELEARN NETWORK DEFENSE PROFESSIONAL (ENDP)

2021

SPLUNK 7.X FUNDAMENTALS PART 1

2021

COMPTIA SECURITY+ CERTIFIED

TRAINING

2021

COMPTIA A+

2021

COMPTIA NETWORK+

2021

COMPTIA LINUX+

2021

ELEARN JUNIOR PENETRATION TESTING

2021

CCNA

PERSONAL SKILLS

Leadership and mentoring, with experience guiding teams and junior professionals.

Presentation Skills and public speaking proficient in delivering clear, engaging presentations and public speaking to educate, inform, and influence diverse audiences

Strong analytical and problem-solving skills in cybersecurity and risk management contexts.

Effective communication skills for engaging with executives, stakeholders, and technical teams.

Strategic thinking with the ability to align cybersecurity initiatives with business objectives.

Collaboration and teamwork across cross-functional departments and diverse environments.

Adaptability and resilience in fast-changing cybersecurity and regulatory landscapes.

TECHNICAL & PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Governance, Risk & Compliance (GRC): Governance frameworks (ISO 27001, NIST CSF, COBIT, SAMA, NCA ECC), policy development, regulatory compliance, and audit readiness.

Risk Management: Risk identification, assessment, treatment planning, residual risk analysis, and continuous monitoring.

Compliance Management: Gap assessments, compliance reporting, control implementation, and regulatory alignment.

Maturity & Capability Assessments: Conducting cybersecurity maturity assessments, benchmarking against standards, and developing road maps for improvement.

Policy & Standards Development: Drafting, reviewing, and maintaining cybersecurity policies, procedures, and standards.

Awareness & Training: Designing and delivering cybersecurity awareness programs, management briefings, and employee workshops.

Cybersecurity Tools & Practices: Experience with SIEM, vulnerability management, endpoint protection, and incident response processes to support GRC objectives.

Reporting & Documentation: Risk registers, compliance reports, audit findings, and executive-level dashboards.

Project & Stakeholder Management: Cross-functional collaboration, consulting stakeholders on risk remediation, and governance enhancements.

UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

2020

SECURITY AWARENESS LIBRARY TOOL (SALT)

LINK: [HTTPS://NERDHERD.ENGINEERING.ASU.EDU/SALT/](https://nerdherd.engineering.asu.edu/salt/)

- Member of Nerd Herd Cybersecurity Devils at Arizona State University
- Member of DevilSec @ Arizona State University
- Member of Project Team building Security Awareness Library Tool (SALT), which is a web application providing a library of concepts and terminology based on peer-reviewed or industry standards.

REFERENCES: AVAIABLE BASED ON REQUESTS

Key Words

Governance, Risk Management, Compliance, Cloud Security, Disaster Recovery, Business Continuity, SIEM Administration, Incident Response, Handling Escalated Incidents, Threat Hunting, Endpoint & Network Detection, Response, Threat Intelligence, Vulnerability Management, Firewall Access Control (Including WAF), Web Application Security,

Unix/Linux/Windows/VMs, Presentation Skills and public speaking, Critical thinking skills and reasoning