USAMA ASHRAF, MS

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Leader | Head of ITSC Department

GC Women University Sialkot, Pakistan

umalhi1989@gmail.com | +92-334-7171993 | Gujranwala, Pakistan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cybersecurity and IT Infrastructure leader with 12+ years of experience in network design, digital transformation, and cyber risk mitigation. Proven record leading multi-campus public-sector projects, securing millions in digital infrastructure funding, and aligning IT policies with CISSP/CISM frameworks. Completed training and practical implementation of CEH, CISA, and CISM methodologies. Expert in SIEM tools, endpoint protection, and disaster recovery across hybrid cloud environments. Currently serving as Head of the IT Support Center at GC Women University, delivering secure, scalable systems to support national digital transformation.

KEY SKILLS and COMPETENCIES

• Cybersecurity Governance and Risk Mitigation (CISM/CISSP-aligned)
• Penetration Testing and Ethical Hacking (CEH-trained)
• IT Audit and Compliance (CISA-trained)
• Firewall and Endpoint Security (Cisco ASA, Fortinet, Sophos, Kaspersky)
• Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity (BCP/DRP)
• Secure Network Architecture (LAN/WAN, VLAN, NAC, VPN)
• Virtualization and Cloud Security (VMware, Hyper-V, Azure)
• SIEM and Monitoring Tools (Wazuh, SolarWinds, PRTG, Nagios, Zabbix)
• Scripting and Automation (PowerShell, Bash, Python)

CERTIFICATIONS and ADVANCED TRAINING

Certified Certifications:

• CCNA – Cisco Certified Network Associate
• MCSA – Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate
• HCNA – Huawei Certified Network Associate
• Microsoft Office Specialist
• System Administration Specialist

Advanced Cybersecurity Training (Practical Implementation):

• CEH – Certified Ethical Hacker (Training completed and applied in VAPT and red teaming)
• CISA – Certified Information Systems Auditor (Training completed; applied in IT audits and compliance)

• CISM – Certified Information Security Manager (Training completed; applied in DRP and governance)

TECHNICAL TOOLKIT

• Cybersecurity and Forensics: Nmap, Nessus, Metasploit, Wireshark, Burp Suite, OpenVAS, Snort, John the Ripper, Autopsy, Volatility, Cuckoo Sandbox
• SIEM and Monitoring: Wazuh, OSSEC, SolarWinds, AlienVault OSSIM, PRTG, Nagios, Zabbix
• Firewall and Endpoint Security: Cisco ASA, Sophos XG, Fortinet FortiGate, pfSense, OPNsense, CrowdStrike, Defender ATP, Bitdefender, Symantec, Kaspersky EDR
• Cloud and Platforms: VMware ESXi, Hyper-V, Azure Security Center, AWS Security Hub, Linux, Windows Server (2008–2022)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GC Women University Sialkot

Head of ITSC / System Administrator / Deputy Director Cybersecurity
 Apr 2022 – Present

• Lead cybersecurity strategy aligned with CEH and CISSP practices across university systems
• Designed and implemented DRP/BCP strategies based on CISM principles
• Deployed 3500+ secure LAN nodes, 250 Wi-Fi access points, and 450 surveillance cameras
• Authored and enforced the university's first formal cybersecurity policy
• Conducted internal IT audits and led 10+ cybersecurity training workshops
• Installed, tested, diagnosis and maintained above 5KM of fiber Optic System in new Campus

Assistant Network Administrator
 Feb 2017 – Apr 2022

• Delivered phased rollout of the Smart and Safe Campus transformation initiative, funded by the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad, including deployment of 134 indoor Wi-Fi access points, 5 outdoor access points, and 70 IP surveillance cameras
• Led VLAN segmentation, firewall configuration, and Network Access Control (NAC) implementation under a project funded by the Higher Education Department (HED) Punjab
• Enabled secure connectivity for 8,000+ users and IoT-based security systems across multi-campus infrastructure

AJ News Islamabad
IT Support Engineer
 2014 – 2017

• Ensured 24/7 server uptime for newsroom operations
• Maintained Windows Server environments and endpoint protection

TNT Solutions, Lahore
System Support Engineer
 2013 – 2014

• Rolled out network infrastructure and cybersecurity solutions for SMEs
• Deployed routers, switches, and endpoint systems with secure configurations

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

• HEC Smart and Safe Universities Project: Led cybersecurity architecture and IP surveillance deployment
• LAN Expansion Initiative (HED Punjab): Designed and rolled out 3500+ secure connections across new campuses
• University Data Center Modernization: Installed SAN/NAS, deployed VMware-based VMs, and configured perimeter security
• Cybersecurity Governance Rollout: Authored internal policy; reduced audit non-compliance by 80%

FUNDING and IMPACT

• Co-secured PKR 485 million (GBP 1.56 million) in infrastructure modernization funding through GCWUS and Planning and Development

EDUCATION

• MS – Information Security
 Riphah International University, Islamabad – 2014–2018
 GPA: 3.5 / 4.0
 Focus: Risk Management, Penetration Testing, Cyber Law, Malware Analysis

• BS – Information Technology
 University of the Punjab, Gujranwala – 2008–2012
 GPA: 3.34 / 4.0

LEADERSHIP and OUTREACH

• Mentored junior staff toward CISSP/CEH preparation and certification
• Delivered in-house cybersecurity workshops to 100+ academic and admin staff
• Participated in HEC cybersecurity policy forums and SANS Institute webcasts
• Advocated for ethical tech adoption in higher education governance meetings

REFERENCES

Available upon request.