

Phillip Tarrant

Principal AI Engineer | Enterprise Automation & Applied AI | Security-Grade Reliability

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Principal engineer with 20+ years shipping production software and applied-AI automation end to end — Flask/Python backends, REST APIs and integrations, JavaScript frontends, and cloud-native CI/CD. Partners directly with business and technical stakeholders to turn manual processes into scalable AI solutions: built agentic LLM automation that auto-closed 47% of 3,500 weekly tickets with zero human touch. Designs reusable automation frameworks, RAG platforms, and intelligent agent workflows — with enterprise security, authentication, and reliability built in from the start.

Career Experience

Principal Engineer — AI Automation & Security TopBuild Corp, Remote *Mar 2026 – Present*

Lead engineer owning AI development, automation platforms, and data architecture for the enterprise program; design and ship production applications and set technical direction for the team.

- Designed and built a production full-stack web application end to end — Flask/Python REST API backend with a JavaScript frontend — delivering 20+ automated actions and integrations across Microsoft 365, CrowdStrike, Google SecOps, and ReliaQuest
- Architected reusable automation frameworks and intelligent agent workflows as shared platform capabilities that unify data, reporting, and response across enterprise systems
- Built a cross-source telemetry correlation tool that accelerates investigation and triage for engineers and business stakeholders
- Own enterprise automation, AI development, and data/logging architecture; set secure-coding, CI/CD, and responsible-AI usage standards
- Mentor engineers and advise leadership on engineering best practices and AI investment

Senior Engineering & Automation Consultant Confidential (Contract), Remote *Jan 2025 – Mar 2026*

Delivered hands-on engineering, automation, and secure architecture for defense, fintech, and MSSP clients across multiple cloud environments.

- Built automation and API integrations that streamlined vulnerability management and reporting workflows for one of the largest US fintech clients
- Designed secure application and cloud architectures across multiple enterprise tenants
- Advised on compliance and secure-by-design practices (NIST 800-53, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, GDPR)

Director of Automation (Technical IC) — prior: SOC Technical Manager → SOC Director

Compuquip Cybersecurity, Tampa/Doral, Florida *Jan 2021 – Dec 2024*

Hands-on technical leader owning all AI development and automation for a secure, regulated MSSP — from solution discovery through development, deployment, and adoption.

- Owned all AI development — designed and shipped AI-powered automation in Python, AWS Lambda, and LLMs that processed 3,500 tickets weekly and auto-closed 47% with no human involvement
- Built agentic AI workflows, RAG-based knowledge systems, and LLM triage pipelines as reusable platform capabilities that accelerated every downstream initiative
- Designed prompt-engineering frameworks and AI guardrails ensuring safe, accurate, auditable outputs in production
- Established AI governance — model evaluation, output validation, and security controls — and drove AI adoption through training and knowledge sharing across teams

- Partnered with business leaders to identify automation opportunities and measure impact; grew the client base from 16 to 52 and margin from 18% to 52% while leading a 17-person engineering, Red Team, and DFIR org

Sr. Security Architect Travel Syndication Technology (TST), Alpharetta, Georgia *Apr 2020 – Jan 2021*

Owned security architecture, automation tooling, and compliance across the organization.

- Built custom tooling and automation for infrastructure testing and detection engineering
- Steered the organization through PCI and NIST 800-series audits; saved \$10,000+ through vendor negotiations

Cyber Security Engineer → Senior Cyber Security Engineer Intercontinental Exchange, Marietta, Georgia *Aug 2018 – Apr 2020*

Incident Response/Digital Forensics lead, promoted to the Architecture and Automation Team.

- Designed security data pipelines and automated SOC triage tooling on the Architecture & Automation team
- Led critical multi-server incident investigations across three teams and mentored junior analysts

IT Leadership & Systems Administration Roles Earlier Experience *Jan 1999 – Aug 2018*

Progressive IT and technical leadership roles, including Technical Services Manager at the National Wild Turkey Federation — led 8 technicians and developers supporting 300+ staff, saved \$50,000+/year migrating 3rd-party tools in-house, and owned web/network/application security.

Education, Certifications, and Awards

GWAPT - Web Application Penetration Tester, GIAC, 2020

GCFA - Forensic Analyst, GIAC, 2019

GCIH - Incident Handler, GIAC, 2018

Lethal Forensicator Coin Winner, SANS/GIAC, 2019

SANS Challenge Coin for excellence in digital forensics

Associate in Network Administration, Virginia College, 2014 – 2016

GPA: 4.0

Technical Skills

AI/ML Engineering & Automation: AI Application Development, Agentic AI & Agent Workflows, LLM Integration, RAG Systems, Prompt Engineering, AI Guardrails & Governance, Model Evaluation, AWS Bedrock, AWS Lambda, Reusable Automation Frameworks

Software Engineering & Full-Stack: Python, Flask, REST API Design, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Frontend Development, System Integration, CI/CD, Docker, Kubernetes, Git, PowerShell, Bash

Cloud, Data & Infrastructure: AWS (Lambda, Bedrock), Azure, Oracle Cloud, Serverless, Cloud-Native Deployment, Data Pipelines, Linux/UNIX, Windows Server, Active Directory

Enterprise Security & Reliability: Enterprise Security, Authentication & Access Control, Secure Architecture, SIEM/SOAR (Sentinel, Splunk, Google SecOps), Detection Engineering, DFIR, NIST 800-53, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, GDPR

Leadership & Collaboration: Technical Leadership, Engineer Mentorship, Cross-Functional Partnership, Stakeholder Management, AI Adoption & Enablement, Team Leadership (17+ reports)