

Phillip Tarrant

Cybersecurity Director | AI & Automation Leader

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Accomplished and analytical professional with 20+ years of experience in cybersecurity, server infrastructures, and data-center operations. Proven expertise in Cyber Operations, digital forensics, penetration testing, information system management, malware reversing, threat detection, and threat hunting with and without AI integration. Proactive leader with a proven record of managing multiple large teams and leading the charge to complete project goals. Managed MSSP operations for 50+ large business clients encompassing over 150,000 assets and 1 million+ users. Experienced AI leader with expertise in prompt engineering, LLM integration, AI security and guardrails, and deploying AI solutions in secure, regulated environments.

Career Experience

Senior Information Security Consultant Confidential, Remote *Dec 2024 – Present*

Contract consulting role providing cybersecurity leadership and technical expertise.

- Managing SOC operations for US Defense Space market supplier across multiple Microsoft tenants
- Managed Vulnerability Management Program for one of the largest fintech clients in the US using Qualys
- Director role at MSSP restructuring SOC flow and training SOC staff
- Designing secure architectures and providing compliance guidance (HIPAA, PCI-DSS, GDPR, NIST 800-53)

SOC Technical Manager → SOC Director → Director of Automation Compuquip Cybersecurity, Tampa/Doral, Florida *Dec 2020 – Nov 2024*

Progressive leadership roles managing SOC operations, Red Team, AI development, and security automation for MSSP clients.

- Grew SOC client base from 16 to 52 customers; improved profitability from 18% to 52% margin
- Built automation handling 3,500 tickets weekly with 47% closed without human involvement
- Managed team of 17 direct reports across SOC, Red Team, and DFIR engagements
- Oversaw all AI development in a secure MSSP environment, building AI-powered security automation using Python, AWS Lambda, LLMs, and SOAR platforms
- Designed and implemented prompt engineering frameworks and AI guardrails to ensure safe, accurate, and auditable AI outputs in production security workflows
- Built RAG-based knowledge systems and LLM-driven triage pipelines for automated threat classification and analyst augmentation
- Established AI governance policies including model evaluation, output validation, and security controls for LLM deployments

Sr. Cyber Security Architect Travel Syndication Technology (TST), Alpharetta, Georgia *Mar 2020 – Dec 2020*

Responsible for security architecture, training programs, and compliance across the organization.

- Steered organization through PCI and NIST 800 series audits
- Created custom tools to automate attacks against infrastructure and design detections
- Saved \$10,000+ through effective vendor/supplier negotiations

Cyber Security Engineer → Senior Cyber Security Engineer Intercontinental Exchange, Marietta, Georgia Jul 2018 – Mar 2020

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

- Lead investigator on critical incidents; managed multi-server compromise investigations across three teams
- Led Malware Analysis in sandboxed environments; mentored junior analysts
- Designed security data flow pipelines and automated SOC triage tools

Technical Services Manager The National Wild Turkey Federation, Edgefield, South Carolina Sep 2015 – Jul 2018

Managed IT team supporting 300+ staff members with focus on infrastructure and security.

- Managed team of 8 technicians and developers supporting 300+ staff members
- Migrated 3rd party tools to in-house solutions saving \$50,000+ yearly
- Managed security of entire web presence including network and application code

IT & Systems Administration Roles Earlier Experience Dec 1998 – Dec 2014

Progressive IT roles including Network/Server Administrator at NWTF, System Administrator at Morgan Thermal Ceramics, IT Coordinator at Briarwood Academy, and Technical Support at Sitel Group.

Education, Certifications, and Awards

GWAPT - Web Application Penetration Tester, GIAC, 2019

GCFA - Forensic Analyst, GIAC, 2018

GCIH - Incident Handler, GIAC, 2017

Lethal Forensicator Coin Winner, SANS/GIAC, 2018

SANS Challenge Coin for excellence in digital forensics

Associate in Network Administration, Virginia College, 2014 – 2016

GPA: 4.0

Technical Skills

Security Operations, SIEM & SOAR: Splunk, ELK Stack, Microsoft Sentinel/Defender, Sentinel One, Rapid7 IDR, Swimlane, D3 SOAR, Torq, Playbook Development

Threat Detection, DFIR & Red Team: Darktrace, Tanium, Vectra, FireEye, Volatility, Malware Analysis, Incident Response, Detection Engineering, Metasploit, Purple Team

AI/ML & Automation: AWS Bedrock, LLMs, RAG, Prompt Engineering, AI Security & Guardrails, AI Governance, Agentic AI, Model Evaluation, Python Automation

Cloud, Infrastructure & Programming: AWS, Azure, Oracle Cloud, Windows Server, Linux/UNIX, Active Directory, Docker, Kubernetes, Python, PowerShell, Bash

Compliance & Frameworks: NIST 800-53, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, GDPR, CIS Benchmarks

Leadership & Management: Team Leadership (17+ reports), MSSP Operations, Budget Management, Vendor Negotiations, Training & Mentorship