

Ethan Lawson

West Palm Beach, FL 33401

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Objective

Motivated Computer Science undergraduate with a strong concentration in cybersecurity, hands-on experience in network security labs, Capture the Flag (CTF) competitions, and AI-driven security projects. Actively pursuing CompTIA Security+ and other industry-recognized certifications.

Certifications

- CompTIA IT Fundamentals (ITF+)
 - CompTIA Network+
 - CompTIA Security+ (*In Progress — Target: January 10, 2026*)
 - HarvardX: TinyML
 - GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC) (*Planned — Applied Security Focus*)
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Experience

Helpdesk Analyst

Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, FL | October 2025 – Present

- Provided support to end users, resolving software and network issues via ticketing system, email, and phone.
- Managed user accounts and access permissions using Active Directory, Jenzabar and Microsoft Azure.
- Supported and helped end users of various technical skill levels.
- Ensured compliance with IT policies, cybersecurity best practices, and service-level agreements.
- Reduced average first response time through efficient ticket monitoring.
- Lowered average resolution time by implementing the CompTIA troubleshooting methodology.

DEFCON 33 — Cybersecurity Conference (*Las Vegas, NV | Aug 7–11, 2025*)

- Competed in Capture the Flag (CTF) challenges involving cryptography and network exploitation.
 - Attended technical briefings on vulnerabilities and advanced user tracking via silent pings on encrypted platforms such as Signal and WhatsApp.
 - Networked with cybersecurity professionals
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Education

Palm Beach Atlantic University — West Palm Beach, FL

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science | Minor: Psychology

Expected Graduation: May 2027 (Accelerated 3-Year Pathway)

GPA: 3.7

Spring 2025 Provost's List — Academic Excellence Recognition | GPA: 3.83

Relevant Coursework:

- Database Systems
- Programming I (Python)
- Programming II (C++)
- Information Systems
- Discrete Mathematics
- Computer Organization
- Website Development
- General Psychology
- Personality Theories

Technical Skills

Programming & Scripting: Python, C++, SQL, HTML, CSS

Familiar with the CompTIA troubleshooting model for systematic issue resolution

Cybersecurity: Vulnerability analysis, network security, ethical hacking, CTF challenges

AI & Computer Vision: Human re-identification, motion tracking, pattern recognition

Tools & Platforms: Wireshark, Kali Linux, Linux CLI, VirtualBox

- SEToolkit: Utilized for executing simulated advanced social engineering attacks and phishing simulations.
- Nmap: Experience with comprehensive network scanning, host discovery, and vulnerability assessment.
- Steghide: Experienced in embedding and extracting hidden data within multimedia files for steganography purposes.
- John the Ripper: Experienced in password cracking software for security assessments

Languages: English (Fluent), Macedonian (Fluent)

Projects & Labs

AI-Powered Drone for Human Re-Identification (Re-ID) (*Ongoing*)

- Developing an AI-driven drone for real-time individual tracking using computer vision and probability-based pattern matching.
- Leveraging onboard AI model and custom 3D-printed components.
- Designed for potential applications in surveillance.

Network Simulation Labs

- Configured and troubleshot switches, VLANs, and firewalls to manage network environments.
- Identified network vulnerabilities, conducted threat simulations, and presented mitigation strategies to strengthen overall security posture.

Volunteer Experience (Total – 47 Hours)

- Smithsonian Transcription Center — Washington, D.C. *(28 Hours)*
Transcribed historical documents to support preservation and academic research.
- Palm Beach Children’s Hospital Foundation — West Palm Beach, FL *(5 Hours)*
Made blankets for hospitalized children.
- Loxahatchee Beach Cleanup — Loxahatchee, FL *(2 Hours)*
Participated in environmental cleanup efforts to protect local ecosystems.
- Meals of Hope — West Palm Beach, FL *(1 Hour)*
Helped prepare nutritious meal packages for people in need.
- Hope for Depression Research Foundation Race — West Palm Beach, FL *(6 Hours)*
Assisted with water distribution and post-event clean up.
- Palm Beach County Veterans Committee, Inc. — West Palm Beach, FL *(4 Hours)*
Helped direct traffic and set up the Veterans Day Parade honoring U.S. service members.
- United Way of Palm Beach County — Palm Beach, FL *(1 Hour)*
Supported community outreach programs through nonprofit activities.

Interests

Cybersecurity & Ethical Hacking • AI & Autonomous Systems • Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) • Digital Forensics