

Zaid Ahmad

Cybersecurity Researcher | Lead Penetration Tester | Module Instructor

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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Professional profile

Cybersecurity researcher and penetration testing lead working across offensive security, digital forensics, and the human dimension of cyberattacks. Pursuing a PhD in Cybersecurity at Asia Pacific University, studying repeated phishing victimization and preventive strategies.

Professional experience

Lead Penetration Tester | APU FSeC

January 2024 - present

Lead vulnerability assessment and penetration testing across web applications, enterprise systems, and cloud environments. Coordinate assessment scoping, testing, reporting, and remediation planning.

Research Associate | Asia Pacific University

July 2024 - present

Examine behavioural, psychological, and demographic factors in repeated phishing victimization. Develop preventive frameworks and co-author academic research.

Module Instructor | Asia Pacific University

August 2024 - present

Design and deliver Advanced Ethical Hacking, Mobile Forensics, and Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing modules for undergraduate and master's students.

Career Path Program Manager | Virtually Testing Foundation

May 2022 - April 2023

Progressed from security engineering through coordination to program management, with responsibilities spanning intern training, onboarding, and security operations.

Earlier experience

Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Intern, Cyber Secured | March - June 2022

Research Intern, SISTMR Australia | October 2021 - January 2022

Education, credentials & research

Education

PhD in Cybersecurity | Asia Pacific University | July 2024 - present

M.Sc. in Cybersecurity | Asia Pacific University | March 2023 - March 2024

B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering | Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering and Technology | June 2018 - July 2022

Selected credentials

OPSWAT OT Security Expert (OOSE) | OPSWAT | 2025

Introduction to Critical Infrastructure Protection | OPSWAT | 2025

Google Cybersecurity Professional Certificate | Coursera | 2024

Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) | ISC2 | 2023

Ethical Hacker | Cisco | 2023

ISO/IEC 27001 Information Security Associate | SkillFront | 2023

Areas of practice

Vulnerability assessment and penetration testing; web, cloud, and OT security; digital forensics; OSINT; phishing and social engineering; human factors in cybersecurity; cybersecurity education.

Publications

Understanding Repeated Phishing Victimization Through Psychological Factors and Routine Digital Behavior

IEEE | 2026 | [Publisher page](#)

An Edutainment-Driven E-Learning Framework for Primary STEM Education

IEEE | 2026 | [Publisher page](#)

Mitigating Social Engineering Attacks: Psychological, Financial Impact, and a Conceptual Framework for Cybersecurity Awareness

ARCTT · Vol. 23 | 2025 | [Publisher page](#)

Famous Cyber Attacks in the History of Cyber Security

IJARIT · Vol. 7, No. 6 | 2021 | [Publisher page](#)

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