LAURENCE AVENT

Security Engineer

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SUMMARY

Experienced Security professional seeking a contract Security Engineering role. I have experience with IAM, both in GCP and AWS environments, securing cloud infrastructure including WAF's, VPC's, etc, and performing vulnerability scanning and threat intelligence work. I have scripting skills and can rapidly get up to speed in a new environment as well as excellent stakeholder management skills, with a background in supporting technical and non-technical users with a range of software packages in both enterprise and startup contexts.

SKILLS

Languages: Rust, SQL, Terraform, Python, TypeScript, Markdown, LaTeX, Claude prompting.

Technologies: AWS, GCP, Kubernetes, DataDog, Sentry.

Software and tools: BurpSuite, nmap, Developer Tools, OpsGenie, HexNode MDM, Drata GRC, IAM.

PROJECTS

Rust — **Liquid Neural Networks [WIP] implementation in Rust**   ⎘ **LNN GitHub Project**
Writing a Liquid Neural Networks implementation in the Rust language to push the limits of Claude-assisted coding, to expand my Rust development knowledge and familiarise myself with hands on ML in Rust.

WAF Vulnerability — **Write up of a WAF Bypass Vulnerability**   ⎘ **Medium Writeup**
Discussion of the mechanics up of a WAF bypass vulnerability discovered when responding to the Log4Shell 0-day vulnerability.

Documentation — **Technical documentation for Terraforming the Encord AWS Integration**   ⎘ **Encord Documentation**
Technical documentation written in markdown and compiled with Docusaurus and later ReadMe to explain how to Terraform the Encord AWS S3 Private Cloud Integration.

Python Scripting — **Project Euler problems solved in Python**   ⎘ **ProjectEuler Github Project**
Solving the first 10 ProjectEuler maths problems with Python scripts and writing a quine.

EXPERIENCE

Nov/2022 – Oct/2023

Security and Compliance Engineer, AI Computer Vision Startup 📍 **Remote, UK**   **Encord (YC 2021)**
- Owning SOC 2 Type 2 audit readiness, audit, successful certification and continuous compliance
- Monitoring GCP logs for signs of malicious activity and developing a custom GCP WAF rule set
- Pentesting the web application and infrastructure using nmap, BurpSuite and Chrome Dev Tools.
- Owning GCP IAM, vulnerability scanning, management and remediation
- Answering security and compliance related questions from customer and prospects
- Handling inbound whitehat and greyhat disclosures
- Support Engineering and other customer-facing duties and documentation
- Creating and sharing request flow diagrams using Plant UML.

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SQL / Postgres / SOC 2 / GCP / AI/Machine Learning / Cloud Armor / Firebase
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Feb/2021 – Nov/2022

Support Engineer (Solutions Engineering) 📍 **London, UK**   **Kobalt Music**
- Driving critical security improvements and helping to set up the Security Incident Response Team
- Coordinating the Log4Shell 0-day vulnerability response, for which I was awarded a spot bonus
- Identifying and fixing a WAF bypass vulnerability on our cloud infrastructure
- Owning the successful implementation of new Incident Management tooling (OpsGenie) including appraisal, adoption, training and documentation
- Managing production incidents, running post-mortems and performing root cause analysis
- Investigating and fixing bugs in legacy internal Java/PL-SQL application on managed Oracle servers
- Investigating and fixing performance issues using DataDog, OEM, SQL Plan Management

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OpsGenie / Jira / AWS / Vulnerability Management / PL-SQL / Oracle / Java
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| July/2019 –
Jan/2021 | **Support Engineer** 📍 **Ljubljana, Slovenia** | **Reciprocity d.o.o.** |

- Primary contact supporting a body of 250+ SaaS customers with our core GRC application, a wide range of integrations (Jira, ServiceNow, Tableau, Splunk, Tenable, Slack, SSO etc) and our REST API
- Building fantastic relationships with the colleagues and customers
- Working with Product teams and customers to accurately define business cases for product enhancements, tie those enhancements to revenue and prioritise them effectively
- Debugging customer issues where they arise to ensure accurate diagnosis and a timely fix
- Incident management and contributing to Five Whys Root Cause Analysis during retrospectives
- Assisting CISO's and other GRC professionals with cyber risk management and compliance
- Producing internal run books and sharing of best-practices between Support and Engineering
- Training internal stakeholders on application updates as well as support tools and techniques

`Incident Management  /  ZenDesk  /  Debugging  /  Customer Support  /  DataDog  /  Sentry`

| Feb/2019 –
Jul/2019 | **Business Intelligence Analyst** 📍 **Bristol, UK** | **Capita PLC** |

- Providing MI reporting to a range of stakeholders across key accounts
- Using SQL queries to drive a shift away from Excel-based analysis into scheduled, custom reporting
- Supporting infosec colleagues with quarterly user account access recertification
- Running and commonly fixing/amending Excel VBA macros in legacy workbooks

`Business Intelligence  /  IAM  /  SQL`

| June/2018 –
Jan/2019 | **Data Management Team Lead** 📍 **Bristol, UK** | **TVS Supply Chain Solutions** |

- BPSS Cleared role leading a fantastic team of permanent and flexible individuals
- Delivering ERP transformation project, providing management information and mapping processes
- Investigating and solving master data issues

`Data Management  /  Root Cause Analysis  /  Team Leadership`

| April/2017 –
March/2018 | **Paralegal** 📍 **Plymouth, UK** | **Womble Bond Dickinson LLP** |

- Assisting the Legal Director with current awareness on Brexit and various contract law matters
- Researching techno-legal implementations of emergent technologies including Distributed Ledger Technologies and Hyperledger Blockchain for smart contracts
- Automating contracts and legal letter drafting using Exari
- Producing client-facing GDPR content ahead of ratification via Data Protection Act 2018

`Legal Awareness  /  GDPR  /  Article writing`

| 2007 –
2017 | **Other Roles,** 📍 **Plymouth, UK** | **Various** |

- Paralegal, Womble Bond Dickinson LLP (Apr 2017 – May 2018)
- Supply Chain Finance Analyst, Wrigley Ltd. (Mar 2016 – Feb 2017)
- Data Migration and Training Administrator, DDRC Healthcare (Sept 2015 – Jan 2016)
- Master Data Administrator, Samworth Brothers Group (June 2015 – Aug 2015)
- Office Administrator and Data Analyst, Palmer and Harvey Ltd (Dec 2014 – Apr 2015)
- Complaint Handler, Angard Staffing PLC (Royal Mail Group) (Jan 2012 – Aug 2014)
- Trainee Merchant Navy Deck Officer, Ship Safe Training Group (Sept 2007 – Nov 2009)

`Customer Service  /  Legal Analysis  /  Data Analysis  /  Finance`

EDUCATION

| Sept/2007 –
June/2011 | **2,1 BSc (Hons), Marine Studies (Merchant Shipping)** | **University of Plymouth** |

The aim of this degree was to become a Deck Officer in the Merchant Navy. Although I failed to gain medical clearance to work offshore, I completed my university studies with rigour. Key takeaways:
- Scientific studies in oceanography, tides, wave theory, meteorology and Astro Nav
- Signals (propagation, degradation and limitations) and their use in navigational methods
- Report writing, research skills, and use of precise writing styles within technical documents
- Critical thinking, problem solving and performing appraisal/validation studies in the real world

HOBBIES

- **Climbing** - Primarily Bouldering, some Trad and Sport in and around the southwest
- **Guitar** - Self-taught Acoustic guitar with shaky vocals
- **Writing** - Blogging on a range of technical and philosophical topics
- **Reading** - Favourite authors include: Steinbeck, Krishnamurti, Anaxagorou, Gleick, Huxley, Thoreau, and Feynman.
- **Hiking and Camping** - Running away to Dartmoor or Cornwall with my tent, hiking boots and stove
- **Martial Arts** - Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, Wing Chun Kung Fu, Filipino Escrima
- **Misc Code Projects** - Experimenting with Rust, NextJS, PostgreSQL, Wrangler and Cloudflare Pages and Workers