

CHAS CARDEN

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Computer Science graduate and career changer focused on cloud security, with a hands-on foundation in Linux systems, networking, and security fundamentals. Runs a personal home lab practicing real-world hardening, administration, and network segmentation. Holds CompTIA Security+, ISC2 CC, ITIL v4, and LPI Linux Essentials, with AWS Solutions Architect – Associate in progress. Seeking a cloud, security, or IT role — cloud support, security analyst, or cloud/security engineering — where I can apply and grow practical, defense-minded skills.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cloud & Security: AWS (in progress), IAM concepts, security hardening, vulnerability management, network security, SIEM

Infrastructure: Linux (Debian/Ubuntu), TrueNAS Scale, virtualization, NAS/storage

Networking: TCP/IP, DNS, DHCP, VLANs, firewall configuration, network monitoring

Programming & Tools: Python (fundamentals), Bash, Java (fundamentals), Wireshark, TryHackMe, Windows Server basics

CERTIFICATIONS

- CompTIA Security+ — Aug 2026
- AWS Solutions Architect – Associate — Planned
- ISC2 Certified in Cybersecurity (CC) — Mar 2025
- LPI Linux Essentials — Jul 2025
- Google Foundations of Cybersecurity — Sep 2025
- ITIL v4 Foundation — Nov 2024
- CompTIA Project+ — Lifetime
- CIW Site Development Associate — Nov 2018

TECHNICAL PROJECTS

Secure AWS Landing Zone — Cloud Security | *In Progress*

- Building a hardened AWS baseline: least-privilege IAM, enforced MFA, multi-region CloudTrail logging, GuardDuty threat detection, and AWS Config compliance rules.
- Documenting each control and its rationale as a repeatable, security-first cloud foundation (public write-up on GitHub and chascarden.com).

Home Lab — Self-Hosted NAS & Security Environment

- Designed and deployed a personal NAS on TrueNAS Scale (Debian) to host self-managed applications, practicing real-world Linux administration and storage management.
- Configured network services including DNS, DHCP, and VLANs with access controls, mirroring enterprise network segmentation.
- Applied security hardening techniques to self-hosted services, simulating cloud workload protection in a home lab environment.

TryHackMe — Cybersecurity Training (Cybersecurity 101 / SAL1)

- Completing hands-on labs covering network analysis, threat detection, and Linux security.
- Targeting Security Analyst Level 1 (SAL1) to build SOC-ready skills in log analysis, SIEM concepts, and incident response.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Maintenance Technician — YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly | May 2021 – July 2026

- Applied systematic troubleshooting and root-cause analysis to diagnose and resolve equipment failures — a methodology directly transferable to incident response and security event triage.
- Managed preventative maintenance schedules across a large facility, building discipline in proactive monitoring and risk mitigation.
- Operated effectively in high-pressure situations with minimal supervision, demonstrating composure and sound judgment.
- Maintained clear, professional communication with stakeholders, building cross-functional collaboration skills.

Shop Manager / Lead Technician — Rhino Linings of the Triad | May 2018 – May 2021

- Managed shop operations, inventory, and quality control — process-oriented thinking applicable to IT asset management and resource governance.
- Handled customer intake, assessment, and delivery workflows, demonstrating structured problem analysis and communication.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — Western Governors University | *Graduated Nov 2025*