

Allison Sawyer

Cybersecurity Engineer, CISSP

self@allisonsawyer.com | +1 XXX-XXX-XXXX | [GitHub](#) | [LinkedIn](#)
1382 Dickinson St., Missoula, MT 59802, United States of America

I am a trusted cybersecurity advisor, passionate about using automation and data to decrease risk. My tenacity, solution-oriented mindset, and collaborative nature make me skilled at finding solutions to entrenched issues. Motivated by continual growth and learning, I am seeking to bridge my applied security engineering knowledge with research experience. My interests include security and privacy policy, applications of machine learning (ML) and automation to security operations, and digital forensics.

Industry Experience

Palo Alto Networks, Missoula, Montana, USA – *Principal Customer Success Engineer / Team Lead*

September 2021 - present

- **Strengthen security posture** of > 100 clients by guiding their implementation of **Cortex XSIAM, XSOAR**, and **XDR**, with outcomes including **58% automated alert handling** and analyst **time savings of 1900 hours/month**
- Engineer hundreds of security use cases, including custom **Python** development
- Lead innovative projects including building a **large language model (LLM)-powered bot** for responding to client questions, a hands-on technical interview round for hiring, and **ML-driven analysis** of product telemetry data
- Contribute dozens of **pull requests** to the XSOAR repository and publish how-to videos and articles

Providence Health & Services, Missoula, Montana, USA – *Security Engineer*

August 2019 - September 2021

- Automated 18 security workflows for incident response (IR), eDiscovery, and other security teams
- **Reduced mean time to assignment** from ~45 to 6 minutes and **automated response** to 43% of phishing emails

LMG Security, Missoula, Montana, USA – *Senior Security Consultant / Forensics Team Lead*

July 2017 - August 2019

- Led dozens of **digital forensics/IR engagements** including ransomware, trojans, and criminal activity including evidence acquisition, containment, analysis, and recovery
- Taught and developed materials for cybersecurity trainings, including “Network Forensics” and “Data Breaches – Detection, Investigation, and Response” at **Black Hat USA** 2017–2019

Education

Columbia University, New York, NY / Paris, France – **Bachelor in Computer Science** | GPA: 3.863 / 4.0

September 2013 - May 2017

- **Honors:** *Cum laude*, Dean's List (September 2013 - May 2017)
- **Research project:** Implemented and analyzed ML approach to student progress modeling and dynamic hinting in programming education system, **SAGE** | Mentored by Jeff Bender | January - May 2017

Achievements

- Selected certifications:
 - **Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)**, ISC2 | April 2024 - April 2027
 - **GIAC Certified Forensic Analyst (GCFA)**, Global Information Assurance Certification (GIAC) | February 2020 - February 2028
 - **GIAC Certified Forensic Examiner (GCFE)**, GIAC | July 2018 - July 2026
- Awards and recognition:
 - Finalist, Palo Alto Networks **company-wide AI innovation competition**, for my work using LLM prompting for efficient client issue replication | June 2025
 - Synergy award for promoting culture of inclusion, Palo Alto Networks Cortex Customer Success | June 2022
 - **GIAC Advisory Board** member, recognizing exceptional performance on GCFA exam | July 2018 - present

Skills & Hobbies

- **Natural languages:** **English** - native language, **French** - B2
- **Cybersecurity:** Security orchestration, automation, and response (SOAR), SIEM, endpoint detection and response (EDR), digital forensics (X-Ways, The Sleuth Kit, Plaso, FTK Imager), IR, cloud security, networking
- **Programming languages:** **Python** (most experienced), JavaScript, PowerShell, C, Java, Swift
- **Development and AI:** git, prompt engineering, RAG, NLP, pandas, scikit-learn
- **Hobbies:** Mountaineering, trail running, travel, reading, volunteer work with ISC2 and local nonprofits