

Gala Cado

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Personal Summary

MSc student in Security and Network Engineering at the University of Amsterdam, drawn to offensive and software security: understanding how systems fail in order to help fix them. Experience spans cyber intelligence analysis at CFLW Cyber Strategies, a BSc thesis on operational phishing detection, and applied LLM research for cybersecurity applications.

Education

University of Amsterdam, MSc in Security and Network Engineering – Netherlands Sept 2025 – Present

Coursework:

- **Security of Systems and Networks:** mobile app security risk assessment, incl. transport-layer testing,
- **Cybercrime and Forensics:** memory and disk forensics investigation using Volatility and Scalpel,
- **Offensive Technologies:** reverse engineered an Android app to bypass its pricing logic; reproduced CVE-2021-3156, a heap-based buffer overflow in sudo,
- **Advanced Security:** built a Bluetooth Low Energy MITM proxy, set up a working WiFi Pineapple rogue access point.

Vrije University Amsterdam, BSc Computer Science, Data Science minor – Netherlands Sept 2021 – July 2024

- **Coursework:** Computer Organization, Computer Networks, Operating Systems, Databases, Machine Learning
- Completed a research internship as part of BSc thesis on phishing detection tooling.

Professional Experience

Cyber Intelligence Research Engineer, CFLW Cyber Strategies – Netherlands Sept 2025 – July 2026

- Classified dark web domains and phishing websites against CFLW's existing intelligence taxonomy.
- Addressed operational and business problems as they arose (e.g. website design, event participation) using a requirements engineering approach: evaluating options, weighing trade-offs, and presenting recommendations, including demos.
- Produced internal documentation and training materials.

Research Intern, Jozef Stefan Institute – Slovenia Nov 2024 – July 2025

- Researched applications of Large Language Models (LLMs) within the field of cybersecurity.
- Instruction fine-tuned an existing LLM and compared its performance to a non fine-tuned counterpart.

Research Intern, CFLW Cyber Security – Netherlands Feb 2024 – July 2024

- Investigated core requirements for translating the phishing detection tool BigPhish from proof-of-concept to operational use, conducting a literature review, consulting investigators, and identifying priority solutions.
- Research was conducted as part of the BSc thesis project.

Teaching Assistant, Vrije University Amsterdam – Netherlands Nov 2023 – July 2024

- For the courses: Operating Systems, Software Design, Human-Computer Interaction, and Software Engineering Processes.
- Conduct tutorials and offer academic guidance and support to students, addressing questions, and clarifying concepts.
- Grade assignments, maintaining a fair and consistent evaluation process.

Skills

Technical Skills: Python, C & C++, Scala, Java, HTML & CSS, JavaScript, SQL, GitHub, Hugging Face, PyTorch, Volatility, Scalpel, Ghidra, JADX, Frida, mitmproxy, OpenSSL, testssl.sh, BlueZ & D-Bus.

Languages: Fluent in English, Slovenian, Croatian, and Macedonian.

Interpersonal Skills: Adept at tutoring and mentoring, with experience in data collection, analysis, and literature reviews. Strong cooperation and communication skills, developed through collaborative research and team projects.

Interests

Studied violin for 10 years at a Music School in Kamnik, Slovenia. Was in a choir for 3 years and danced hip-hop for 10 years. I do Pilates, Yoga and I love to travel and read.