

I have always believed that an ideal career is one where I enjoy working, am continually challenged, get an opportunity to make a difference, and achieve job satisfaction. There are not many areas that excite me like Cybersecurity and securing online information to prevent cyber attacks. The widespread prevalence of hackers stealing information from millions of people have become more than just a nuisance, as they cost businesses millions of dollars each year. As I was introduced to this area during my undergraduate program through my course on Cryptography and Network Security, I realized that the nature of cyber threats is constantly changing as hackers come up with new strategies to bypass online security systems, and people working in the domain of cybersecurity constantly have to learn and develop new skills for making online verification and storage procedures more secure. A postgraduate degree in Cyber/Network Security will help me enter a challenging field where I can work towards developing security systems and encryption procedures that can safeguard confidential data of government and private organizations globally.

Since childhood, I have always been deeply interested in computers, including all hardware and software aspects of it, and so I decided to pursue my undergraduate studies in Computer Science and Engineering. Needless to say, my favourite subject was Cryptography and Network Security, where I learnt about different types of encryptions and their algorithms, hashing, and authentications, and I went on to pursue several related courses such as Ad Hoc Network, Storage Area Network, and Wireless Area Network. I also learnt a number of related practical skills through my courses, CNS Laboratory and Network Programming Laboratory.

My passion about computer science and my newly acquired skills in this domain motivated me to take up a project where I developed a website for an E-Farming Marketplace to help farmers with very little technological knowledge get the best price for their produce. I created a simple and user-friendly interface with several drop down menus and the majority of instructions in the form of images and videos, so as to enable farmers to use it comfortably. This website provided a common platform for both buyers and sellers to carry out business at decent prices. Through this project, I acquired proficiency in the technologies HTML, CSS, Java, and JavaScript for the development of the user interface, and Cassandra for backend development.

After this, I decided to diversify my skill set and so, I developed an Android-based Quiz application named Quizapp using Microsoft Visual Studio and C#, and published it on Google Play Store. I also underwent industrial training in Windows Application Development, which allowed me to understand several basic concepts and latest trends in this area. As my passion in the field of Cybersecurity was slowly growing, I utilized the opportunity to attend a Lucideus Cybersecurity workshop conducted by a very well-known cyber security startup in India. Here, I received hands-on training in this area, including performing live hacks and penetration testing. I learnt the basics of mobile security, web application security, email security, network security, and defence techniques to secure the cyber world such as network scanning and attacks, buffer overflows, reverse engineering, information gathering, and footprinting. I also received the Cisco Global Cyber Security Scholarship, through which I acquired both theoretical and practical training in the basics of cyber security.

Apart from academics, I have been actively involved in several events and activities conducted at my college. I have coordinated a national level workshop on Big Data and Hadoop Computing, which was a joint venture of IBNC India and IIT Delhi. I have completed several courses and received certifications on CCNA and CCNP routing and switching, CCNA cyber Security Operations, Python, Linux, Internet of Things, and Network Analysis. My extreme effort

in taking initiatives in gaining as much information as possible in my field of interest has helped me achieve a deep understanding of the subject matter and take active interest in the ongoing research in this field to make myself technologically capable to handle complex industry-relevant projects.

After completing my undergraduate studies, I wanted to test the applications of my knowledge and technical expertise in real world projects, and so I started working at Tata Consultancy Services. Here, I attended an intensive training on Business Intelligence and Performance Management - Application Process, where I learnt about several basic tools and methodologies such as SQL, PL/SQL, Unix, Data Warehousing, ETL tools, SAP Business Objects, and Oracle-DB. I gained in-depth experience in identifying sources, defining target systems, creating mappings, running workflows, and performing data cleansing and transformation operations. After completing the initial training period, I worked on a network-related project where I performed L2 network support in managing a network of 10,000+ stores, creating tickets, and monitoring network status. I replaced faulty devices remotely, managed Ad Hoc requests for enabling different services, configured port, switches, and routers, and monitored links, devices, and interfaces.

From here, I moved on to Intel, where I worked as an L3 Network Performance Engineer, handling network/application slowness and performing packet analysis with the help of Wireshark and HTTP Watch. I gained in-depth expertise in OSI layers, Cloudshark, Netshark, and Opnet, and worked on various span switches such as Gigamon and Nexus data broker. I have led teams on several projects and in the process acquired valuable teamwork, communication, and organizational skills to enhance performance. I am currently working as a Site Network Operations Engineer where I perform tasks related to software and hardware upgrade, site network/DC shutdown management, and delivery of client requirements.

Cybersecurity is currently one of the most demanding fields in the world and the need for qualified professionals in this area cannot be stressed enough. I intend to build my knowledge base in this field through a rewarding postgraduate program and then take up a job at an MNC, where I can work towards protecting the company's cloud-based data. I also wish to pursue research through a doctoral degree so that I can understand the field of cyber security at the root level and make valuable contributions to the area of security systems. My long-term objective is to achieve subject matter expertise in the field of Cybersecurity, and get involved in research and innovation in this industry. I want to influence organizational change from a reactive approach to a proactive approach in fighting cyber threats wherein I can automate security features and prevent hacking before it happens.

A postgraduate program in Cyber/Network Security from your University will help me acquire extensive knowledge in the field that will help me build my future in this industry. I look forward to gaining international exposure to the world of cyber threats, so that I can understand the needs of the industry at a global level and work towards addressing and solving this global crisis. I intend to build a competitive job profile by carrying out cutting edge research at your advanced facilities and being guided by exceptionally skilled professionals at your premises. Your University will provide me with the platform where I can develop a network of useful collaborations that will help me move up in my career ladder.

Given my deep passion for the field of Cybersecurity and my drive to achieve mastery in the tools and techniques required to prevent cyber crimes, I look forward to making the most of your postgraduate program for my career prospects.

