

CHIUSENI DENZEL

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SUMMARY

Cybersecurity researcher and software engineer with an MSc in Information Technology from Carnegie Mellon University Africa. Builds full stack systems in Python and TypeScript, and studies how AI systems fail under adversarial attack, with published research on smishing detection. Brings hands on experience in penetration testing, vulnerability assessment and self hosted LLM deployment.

EDUCATION

Master of Science in Information Technology

August 2024 to December 2025

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, USA,

GPA: 3.88/4.00

Bachelor of Technology in Information Security and Assurance

August 2019 to May 2023

Harare Institute of Technology, Harare, Zimbabwe

First Class, Distinction

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Associate

February 2026 to Present

Carnegie Mellon University Africa, Kigali, Rwanda

- Build and operate a multi backend LLM environment serving quantized Qwen models with Ollama and vLLM across local hardware, Azure and rented GPU servers.
- Research malware behaviour and threat detection, and write up findings and recommendations for faculty and project stakeholders.
- Collaborate with faculty on cybersecurity projects across the African technology landscape, documenting methods, results and next steps.

Full Stack Developer

June 2025 to December 2025

Huza HR, Kigali, Rwanda

- Engineered scalable RESTful APIs with Node.js and TypeScript, using PostgreSQL for data management and retrieval.
- Built and maintained a TypeScript microservices architecture that supports HR automation workflows.
- Designed responsive Next.js interfaces for recruiters and job seekers.

IT Support Staff

January 2024 to July 2024

Avante Screens Pvt Ltd, Harare, Zimbabwe

- Deployed digital signage across 15 retail stores in 8 locations.
- Implemented web based content management systems to speed up data processing.

Software Developer Intern

December 2021 to July 2022

CICOSY Pvt Ltd, Harare, Zimbabwe

- Developed and tested web applications with Spring Boot and Angular.

- Took part in code reviews and fixed bugs to keep systems reliable.

PROJECT WORK

PhishGuard

baithook.denzelchiu.me

- Developed the Next.js and TypeScript frontend for a phishing awareness training platform that runs sandboxed phishing simulations for organisations and individual users.
- Implemented role based dashboards, JWT authentication, React Query data fetching and Zod validation against an Express API.
- Designing an AI agent that helps administrators build sandbox phishing scenarios. (In development)

Wireshark Agent Suite

github.com/Denzel29/Wireshark-Agent

- Built an AI powered network traffic analysis tool that captures live traffic or reads pcap files with tshark, classifies flows with the Gemini API and raises severity based alerts with reasoning.
- Implemented a FastAPI backend with WebSockets and SQLite storage, a Next.js and TypeScript dashboard, and PDF and email report delivery.

Password Auditor

github.com/Denzel29/Password-Auditor

- Built and deployed a Flask API on Heroku that checks passwords and emails against HIBP Pwned Passwords and XposedOrNot using k anonymity, and returns a binary access flag with breach exposure details

Upanzi Programs Management System (UPMS) VAPT

January 2025 to May 2025

- Assessed IT general controls across several systems, found critical weaknesses in credentials, DNS configuration and session management, and recommended fixes.
- Tested control effectiveness with privilege escalation and lateral movement using industry standard tools.

PUBLICATIONS

Adversarial Robustness in Smishing Detection: A Comparative Analysis of Adversarial Fragility in Classical vs. Transformer Based Detection Systems

Chiuseni Denzel, Athanase Bahizire, Silva Hama and Jema David Ndibwile. 5th World Conference on Information Systems for Business Management (ISBM 2026), Bangkok, September 2026. Springer Nature, Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems (LNNS).

SKILLS

Programming and Software Engineering: Python, TypeScript, JavaScript, Node.js, Java (Spring Boot), Angular, Next.js, REST APIs, microservices, Git, GitHub, Docker, Jest

AI and Data: Large language models, adversarial machine learning, adversarial robustness evaluation, agentic AI, prompt engineering, model quantization, self hosted inference (Ollama, vLLM), AI assisted coding (Claude Code, Cursor, Kiro)

Cloud and Platforms: Azure, Heroku, Vercel, Linux (Bash), PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite

Security: Vulnerability assessment and penetration testing, IT general controls review, access and identity management, incident response, threat detection, Burp Suite, Metasploit, Nmap, Wireshark, Snort and Suricata