

HUSAIN ALI ALMAHHARI

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Professional Summary

Cybersecurity and Data Protection professional with over 5 years of experience in the banking sector, specializing in risk management, vulnerability governance, incident response oversight, and regulatory compliance. Proven ability to reduce enterprise risk exposure, support regulatory audit readiness, and enhance security posture within a regulated financial institution environment.

Experienced in aligning cybersecurity controls with regulatory expectations and internal risk frameworks. Combines technical infrastructure security expertise with governance, reporting, and third-party risk oversight.

CompTIA Security+ certified.

Certifications & Courses

- **CompTIA Security+ (SY0-701)** – 2026
- FortiGate Operator
- Introduction to Microsoft Sentinel
- Vulnerability Assessment and Penetration Testing
- Cybersecurity Incident Management and Reporting

Experience

United Gulf Bank – Senior Cybersecurity and Data Protection Guardian | Nov 2025 – Present

Reporting directly to the CEO, responsible for overseeing the Bank's Information Security Strategy and Personal Data Protection Framework in alignment with CBB regulations and Bahrain Personal Data Protection Law (PDPL).

- Implement the Board-approved Cybersecurity Strategy and ensure timely updates and effective monitoring.
- Develop, deploy, and maintain the Bank's Personal Data Protection Framework in compliance with Bahrain PDPL.
- Create and maintain information security policies, standards, and procedures aligned with regulatory and industry best practices (NIST CSF, ISO 27001, CIS Controls).
- Perform Cybersecurity Risk Assessments and Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) across the Bank.

- Monitor vulnerability management processes and ensure timely remediation of identified weaknesses.
- Develop and maintain Incident Response Plan, including breach handling procedures aligned with PDPL requirements.
- Monitor security events through SIEM and coordinate incident response activities to minimize impact.
- Maintain Records of Processing Activities (RPA) on a bank-wide basis.
- Handle Data Owner Rights Requests in accordance with Articles 18–23 of Bahrain PDPL.
- Liaise with Bahrain Personal Data Protection Authority (PDPA) when required.
- Prepare executive and Board-level cybersecurity and data protection reports.
- Ensure compliance with CBB regulations, national cybersecurity framework requirements, and data protection laws.
- Coordinate cybersecurity audits with internal and external auditors.
- Manage vendor cybersecurity risk assessments and security review processes.
- Lead Bank-wide cybersecurity awareness and training initiatives.

United Gulf Bank – IT Officer | Jul 2022 – Oct 2025

- Administered and secured Active Directory, Group Policy, and access controls across banking systems and infrastructure.
- Led internal vulnerability management program across servers, endpoints, and network infrastructure, strengthening compliance posture and reducing high-risk exposures.
- Remediated identified security vulnerabilities across critical banking systems to maintain hardened infrastructure.
- Managed network switches, VoIP configurations, and core infrastructure components.
- Coordinated IT and cybersecurity audit activities, providing documentation and evidence to internal and external auditors.
- Generated monthly IT and security reports covering operational metrics, change management, security statistics, and system impact analysis.
- Automated operational IT processes to improve efficiency and reduce manual administrative workload.
- Supported Business Continuity Plan updates, testing exercises, and staff training initiatives.
- Enforced structured ticketing system usage to strengthen governance, traceability, and audit readiness.
- Provided advanced support for banking applications, infrastructure systems, and end users.

Pentest360 – Cyber Security Consultant | Mar 2020 – Jun 2022

- Conducted internal, external, and PCI segmentation penetration tests for financial and industrial sector clients.
- Performed structured vulnerability assessments using Nessus, Qualys, OpenVAS, and Acunetix.
- Executed controlled exploitation within authorized scope to validate risk impact and support remediation planning.
- Delivered executive-level security assessment reports with clear remediation guidance.
- Managed end-to-end security assessment projects, ensuring regulatory alignment and professional reporting standards.
- Coordinated with client stakeholders to monitor remediation progress and risk mitigation efforts.

Projects & Internships

Bahrain Polytechnic – Networking Trainee (Graduation Project) | Sep 2019 – Jan 2020

- Conducted comprehensive network security analysis and penetration testing.
- Identified and remediated critical vulnerabilities using Wireshark, Nmap, and OpenVAS.
- Developed and implemented improved port security and access control policies.
- Delivered formal security assessment report and presentation to IT department leadership.
- Managed project planning, timeline, and execution as project lead.

BMMI – IT Trainee | Jul 2018 – Sep 2018

- Prepared and configured over 200 desktop and laptop systems.
- Assisted in implementing network security policies.
- Supported hardware lifecycle optimization initiatives.

Education

- Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology – Bahrain Polytechnic (2014)

PROFESSIONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills

- Executive-level reporting and documentation experience
- Cross-functional collaboration with IT, cybersecurity, risk, and audit teams
- Experience operating in regulated financial environment

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Cybersecurity & Risk

- Cybersecurity Risk Assessment
- Vulnerability Management
- Incident Response
- Third-Party Risk Management
- Data Protection Operations
- Business Continuity Support
- Audit & Regulatory Compliance (Banking Environment)

Infrastructure & Systems

- Active Directory & Group Policy
- Windows Server Administration
- Endpoint Security
- Network Switch Configuration
- VoIP Systems
- ERP Systems

Security Tools

- Nessus
- Qualys
- OpenVAS
- Acunetix
- Microsoft Sentinel
- FortiGate

Cloud & Automation

- AWS Security Fundamentals
- AI Prototyping & Prompt Engineering
- Python (Foundational Level)