

Ashar S. Ahmed

Software Developer | U.S. Citizen | ashar@aahmed.org | GitHub

SUMMARY

Software developer with 4+ years building cloud infrastructure, backend services, and developer tooling. Experienced shipping production systems on AWS with Terraform/Terragrunt, building CI/CD pipelines, and writing Python, TypeScript, PowerShell, and Bash automation. Strong foundation in secure software design from DevSecOps and compliance-aligned work, including ISO 27001-aligned controls. Holds AWS Solutions Architect & Developer certifications and a CISSP.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, JavaScript/TypeScript, PowerShell, Bash, SQL, PL/SQL

Cloud / Infrastructure: AWS (IAM, S3, DynamoDB, CloudWatch, CloudTrail), Azure, Terraform, Terragrunt, Docker, Kubernetes

CI/CD / Tooling: GitHub Actions, automated testing, policy-as-code (Checkov), linting, code coverage gates

Databases: DynamoDB, Oracle Database, SQL Server

Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Alertmanager, structured logging, metric instrumentation

Security / Compliance: Secure SDLC, threat modeling, dependency scanning, NIST CSF, CIS Controls v8, ISO 27001-aligned controls, MITRE ATT&CK, Zero Trust (SP 800-207)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Contractor, Mercor Intelligence, San Francisco, CA

May 2026 – Present

- Provide technical expertise and structured feedback to a frontier artificial intelligence lab, supporting the training and evaluation of large language models
- Assess model outputs for accuracy, reasoning quality, and specification adherence across technical and general-knowledge domains

Cyber Security Advisor, Dr. Shariq Mumtaz Medicine Professional Corporation

Jan. 2023 – Present

- Scripted end-to-end automation in Python, PowerShell, and Bash for endpoint configuration, telemetry collection, and compliance reporting across a fleet of macOS and Windows devices
- Built correlation-driven log pipelines instrumenting identity, endpoint, and network telemetry; cut Mean Time to Detect (MTTD) from days to under 1 hour
- Automated MDM policy deployment, patch cadences, and DNS filtering configuration; standardized baselines reduced spam and unsolicited traffic by **80%**
- Designed and maintained internal tooling for risk tracking, remediation SLAs, and KPI dashboards, enabling data-driven prioritization across the security program

Software Developer, Department of Industry, Canadian Digital Service

Feb. 2021 – Jan. 2022

- Engineered secure AWS infrastructure (IAM, S3, DynamoDB, CloudWatch) via Terraform/Terragrunt; enforced policy-as-code scanning with Checkov across all modules
- Designed and deployed passive request validation to eliminate bot-driven abuse, removing user friction while increasing detection coverage across all form endpoints
- Implemented CI/CD quality gates and automated testing, increasing code coverage from ~20% to **85%**; reduced client-reported data incidents from 4–5 to 1–2 per cycle
- Awarded the **Directors' General Award of Merit** for delivery impact on national spectrum operations

Software Developer Intern, National Research Council of Canada (NRC)

Sept. 2020 – Dec. 2020

- Developed full-stack Oracle Database applications powering research data pipelines across multiple NRC divisions
- Engineered PL/SQL stored procedures and SQL-based automation to replace manual workflows, eliminating ~10 hrs/week of manual processing

PROJECTS & PUBLICATIONS

QR-CLI | qr-cli.dev

- Built and published a cross-platform Node.js CLI that generates QR codes as ASCII art with PNG export; fully offline, MIT-licensed, distributed via npm and GitHub

Tally Habit Tracker | tally.aahmed.ca

- Built and published a privacy-first iOS habit tracker (Swift/SwiftUI, SwiftData, WidgetKit, Live Activities, CloudKit sync) with three habit types, flexible scheduling, streak heatmaps, inline notification actions, and Google Reminders import; zero telemetry, no third-party SDKs

EDUCATION

Master of Science (M.S.) Cybersecurity & Information Assurance | Western Governors University

Awarded 2024

Bachelor of Computer Science (BCompSci) | Dalhousie University

Awarded 2024

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)

Awarded 2026

Systems Security Certified Professional (SSCP)

Awarded 2023

AWS Certified Solutions Architect & Developer - Associate

Awarded 2022