

# VIGNESH CHANDRASEKARAN

Red Team Specialist • Offensive Security Engineer • vCISO Advisor • ICS/SCADA Security

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Elite offensive security practitioner with 12+ years of experience spanning red team operations, adversary simulation, nation-state level threat intelligence, ICS/SCADA security, and vCISO advisory. Operated across high-sensitivity engagements where discretion was a requirement, not a preference — including government-adjacent and critical infrastructure environments across the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.

HackTheBox Omniscient rank holder with a global Top 10 Hall of Fame placement — a distinction achieved by fewer than 0.1% of the platform's worldwide user base. International conference speaker (THREAT CON, BalCCon). SANS SEC760 course instructor. Bug Bounty Hall of Fame: Google, Twitter, Bugcrowd, Medium. Builder of open-source security tooling with community-validated traction. Fluent in translating offensive findings into board-level business risk language.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS & RECOGNITION

### HackTheBox Omniscient Rank

Global Top 10 Hall of Fame — achieved by <0.1% of users worldwide

### International Conference Speaker

THREAT CON 2019: Hacking Human Lives via Body Area Network

BalCCon 2k18: Hybrid Cloud Seeding & Infrastructure Attack Chains

### SANS SEC760 — Web Course Instructor

Trained professionals who went on to become SANS instructors

### Bug Bounty Hall of Fame

Google, Twitter, Bugcrowd, Medium — 15+ vulnerability reports to Google Bug Hunters

### Open-Source Security Tooling

Information-Security-Tasks: 177 stars, 57 forks on GitHub  
bheeshma: Runtime supply chain abuse detection for Node.js

sabha-devsec: Cyber risk to CFO-level financial impact translation platform

### 50+ VAPT / Penetration Testing Engagements

Global client portfolio across Middle East, Europe, USA, and Asia

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Independent Security Consultant & Red Team Advisor

Self-Employed | Remote, Global

Jan 2023 – Present

- Delivered offensive security advisory, adversary simulation, and vCISO-level guidance across multiple high-sensitivity engagements; client identities and specific deliverables remain confidential by agreement.
- Conducted APT-focused offensive and defensive operations including threat actor emulation, command-and-control infrastructure design, and post-compromise analysis.
- Pioneered LLM/AI security research examining attack surfaces, prompt injection vectors, and adversarial misuse patterns across large language model deployments.
- Developed sabha-devsec — an open-source platform translating offensive security findings into board-level financial risk impact analysis for executive decision-making.
- Built bheeshma — a runtime dependency behavior monitor detecting software supply chain abuse in Node.js environments; published on GitHub with active community adoption.
- Designed chanakya-opsec — a multi-layer OPSEC failure analysis framework for research-grade threat modeling and signal correlation.

### Information Security Manager

Saptang Labs | Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Mar 2022 – Jan 2023

- Led end-to-end information security strategy, overseeing red team engagements, client security assessments, and internal security operations.

- Managed a team of security analysts; established structured red team engagement methodologies aligned with real-world adversary TTPs.
- Delivered VAPT, cloud security reviews, and Active Directory attack assessments for enterprise clients across verticals.

## Senior Security Engineer

Freshworks | Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Apr 2021 – Jan 2022

- Conducted application security assessments, network penetration testing, and security architecture reviews across enterprise SaaS products.
- Advised senior leadership on evolving threat landscape, privacy risk, and security posture improvement roadmaps.
- Represented company's technical security position to external partners; established bi-directional security best practice information flows.

## Senior Security Advisor (Confidential Engagements)

Undisclosed Government-Adjacent Clients | Remote

2020 – 2021

- Performed sensitive nation-state level offensive and defensive security operations across critical infrastructure environments.
- Engaged in APT simulation, threat actor emulation, and adversary-in-the-middle operations; full disclosure not possible by the nature and terms of these engagements.

## Chief Hacking Officer

Precise Thinking TCT | Amman, Jordan

Nov 2019 – Apr 2020

- Led offensive security operations and penetration testing programs across enterprise and government client base.
- Directed security services, managed budget, and aligned security functions with organizational compliance and regulatory requirements.
- Coordinated incident response planning and emergency procedure development.

## Information Security Engineer — Global Consulting

Independent / Freelance | Global (Remote & On-site)

Jun 2014 – Feb 2019

- Delivered 50+ VAPT and penetration testing engagements for enterprise and government clients across the Middle East, Europe, and the United States.
- **Central Bank of Jordan (Amman):**
  - Managed incident response operations; conducted network VAPT, iOS/Android mobile application penetration testing, Active Directory attack and hardening, APT investigation, and threat management.
- **RAK EGA — UAE Government (Gulf):**
  - Application security audits, network device configuration reviews, OS/DB security hardening, custom exploit development, and advanced security tooling.
- **AL Rostamani Exchange (Dubai, UAE):**
  - Network VAPT, mobile application security, implemented anti-reverse engineering controls preventing application decompilation.
- **Municipal Government Client (Springfield, USA):**
  - Network device management reviews, periodic penetration testing, and organizational hardening assessments.
- **Critical Infrastructure Client (Pacific Northwest, USA):**
  - SCADA device security reviews and industrial control system (ICS) penetration testing.
- Served as validator and challenge author on HackTheBox, Bugcrowd, and Yogosha platforms.
- Conducted PCI-DSS QSA audits and WiFi security assessments for global financial and enterprise clients.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

**Offensive Security:** Red Team Operations · Adversary Simulation · VAPT (Network / Web / Mobile / Cloud) · Exploit Development · Active Directory Attack Chains · Purple Teaming

**Threat & Intelligence:** APT Investigation · Threat Actor Emulation · Threat Intelligence · OSINT · Incident Response Management · Malware Analysis

**Specializations:** ICS / SCADA Security (OT) · LLM / AI Security Research · Supply Chain Security · Mobile Security (Android & iOS) · PCI-DSS QSA · Hybrid Cloud Security

**Leadership & Advisory:** vCISO Advisory · Security Architecture · Risk Management Frameworks · Executive-Level Risk Communication · Team Leadership · Mentoring

**Programming:** Python · .NET · JavaScript (Node.js) · Language-Agnostic Security Tooling · Bash / Shell Scripting

## LICENSES & CERTIFICATIONS

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**ISA/IEC 62443 — Cybersecurity Risk Assessment**

International Society of Automation · Dec 2023 – Dec 2027

**ISA/IEC 62443 — ICS/SCADA Security**

International Society of Automation · Dec 2023 – Dec 2028

**ECSCA — EC-Council Security Analyst**

EC-Council · Feb 2021

**CCNA — Cisco Certified Network Associate**

Cisco · Jul 2014

## EDUCATION

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**Bachelor of Science — Information Technology**

Ramakrishna Mission Vidyalaya, Coimbatore

*Jun 2009 – May 2012*

## COMMUNITY & RESEARCH

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**Medium Security Blog:** [medium.com/@vignesh4303](https://medium.com/@vignesh4303) — security research articles and practitioner guides

**Stack Exchange Contributor:** Active contributor to the information security community ([stackoverflow.com/users/1677242](https://stackoverflow.com/users/1677242))

**Conference Talks (Public):** THREAT CON 2019 — [youtube.com/watch?v=9OU8LiNyTAs](https://youtube.com/watch?v=9OU8LiNyTAs) | BalCCon 2k18 — [youtube.com/watch?v=uMeKogRyOPQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=uMeKogRyOPQ)

**LinkedIn Audience:** 4,400+ followers — active voice in offensive security and threat research discussions