


Samantha R. Gignac

SECURITY ARCHITECT · CLOUD & ENTERPRISE SECURITY

 samanthagignac

Summary

Cybersecurity Architect with over a decade of experience designing and governing enterprise security architectures across global financial, insurance, and healthcare environments. Proven leader in cloud, identity, logging, and threat-driven security architecture, partnering with business and executive stakeholders to balance innovation, autonomy, and risk. Holds a B.S. in Computer Networks and Systems Engineering and multiple GIAC, AWS, and CISSP certifications. Passionate about securing complex, distributed systems while mentoring teams and continuously adapting to an evolving threat landscape.

Work Experience

Zurich Insurance

Remote

GLOBAL SECURITY ARCHITECT - AVP

Nov. 2021 - PRESENT

- Design and govern enterprise-wide security frameworks aligned to financial risk management strategies.
- Vanguard Award recipient (company-wide, annual), selected as the top cybersecurity professional for leadership and measurable risk reduction.
- Evaluate and approve application security architecture using threat-driven risk analysis.
- Lead cloud security initiatives, including AWS, to enhance scalability and resilience.
- Enable decentralized teams to innovate securely while aligning with enterprise security objectives.

KION Group - Dematic

Grand Rapids, MI

CYBER DEFENSE CENTER SECURITY ENGINEER

Apr. 2019 - Oct. 2021

- Implemented and operated core security platforms including SIEM, SOAR, sandboxing, EDR, and vulnerability analysis tools.
- Led incident response and forensic investigations across enterprise environments.
- Analyzed log correlations and security telemetry to detect, investigate, and remediate threats.
- Automated SOC workflows through SOAR playbook development to improve response consistency and efficiency.
- Partnered with IT and business stakeholders to improve security operations and threat visibility.

Spectrum Health System

Grand Rapids, MI

VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT SECURITY ENGINEER

Dec. 2018 - Apr. 2019

- Executed enterprise vulnerability and port scanning and analyzed results to identify remediation priorities.
- Investigated emerging vulnerabilities and produced formal threat advisories for technical and leadership audiences.
- Interpreted scan data to assess risk exposure across infrastructure and application environments.

Spectrum Health System

Grand Rapids, MI

RISK MANAGEMENT SECURITY ANALYST

May 2016 - Dec. 2018

- Conducted risk assessments aligned to NIST across HIPAA, PCI, financial, and employee data environments.
- Managed third-party and internal risk reviews in collaboration with Legal, Privacy, Engineering, and Architecture teams.
- Monitored vulnerabilities using RiskRecon and internal systems to support remediation and risk tracking.
- Developed tracking and reporting mechanisms to support risk management decision-making.

Allstate Insurance

Northbrook, IL

SAN STORAGE ENGINEER

May 2014 - May 2016

- Managed lifecycle events such as implementing an all-flash array to replace Non-Production arrays at end of life.
- Implemented a Storage Archiving capability (ZLUA) on over 100 Windows 2012 R2 servers.
- Improved functionality and administered a backup reporting tool on six Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers (Hitachi Storage Viewer for Backup).

Allstate Insurance

Northbrook, IL

STORAGE ENGINEER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Jun. 2013 - Aug. 2013

- Developed a process to determine the peak and average IOPS at the pool and tier level for Hitachi storage arrays.
- Aided engineers in the regular lifecycle maintenance of switches and storage arrays.

Ferris State University

Big Rapids, MI

STRUCTURED LEARNING ASSISTANT AND COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Mar. 2011 - May 2014

- Taught Electric Circuits II lab content and assisted students with troubleshooting using oscilloscopes and test equipment.
- Repaired student devices, managed Group Policy configs, and supported campus tech operations.

Certifications

- Feb 2025** IAPP Certified Information Privacy Technologist (CIPT)
- Jan 2025** SANS GIAC Defensible Security Architecture (GDSA)
- Mar 2024** AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate
- May 2022** ISC2 Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP)
- Feb 2021** SANS GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst (GCI/A)
- Jul 2020** SANS GIAC Information Security Professional (GISP)
- May 2019** SANS GIAC Certified Incident Handler (GCIH)
- Aug 2018** SANS GIAC Certified Enterprise Defender (GCED)
- Sep 2017** SANS GIAC Security Essentials (GSEC)

Education

Ferris State University

B.S. IN COMPUTER NETWORKS AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

- Received "Outstanding Student of the Year" Award twice.

Big Rapids, MI

Aug. 2010 - May 2014

Extracurricular Activity

SANS Challenge Coin Holder	SEC530: Defensible Security Architecture and Engineering
SANS Challenge Coin Holder	SEC504: Hacker Tools, Techniques, Exploits, and Incident Handling
SANS Challenge Coin Holder	SEC503: Intrusion Detection In-Depth
West Michigan CSA - Cloud Security Alliance	Member since July 2018
GIAC Advisory Board	Member since Sep. 2017
West Michigan Cyber Security Consortium	Member since July 2016
Grand Rapids - Information Systems Security Association	Member since July 2016
IEEE Chapter at Ferris State	President, Vice President, & Secretary between Aug. 2010 - May 2014

Publications & Presentations

PUBLIC

- 2023 **How Zurich Insurance Group Built a Log Management Solution on AWS**, AWS Big Data Blog (Public) *AWS*
- 2023 **Architecting Enterprise Log Management on AWS**, Conference Presentation (YouTube) *Public Talk*