ALYSSA HERRERA

SECURITY RESEARCHER

Alyssa O. Herrera

Web Application Exploit Developer and Security Researcher

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Hello,

My name is Alyssa Herrera.

I'm a professional Web Application security researcher based in the United States. I have a strong background in server and web front end exploitation and auditing along with associated GRC. Having performed cybersecurity and auditing work for the U.S. Military I have extensive experience operating in high-security COMINT/SIGINT/MASINT environments and thrive when working autonomously.

I have previously performed proactive security auditing and CPE testing for the HackerOne, Synack, and Intigriti crowdsourced bug bounty platforms, with a current position as a featured member at HackerOne with over 130+ discovered vulnerabilities.

Another driving element for me is a strong passion for mentoring, teaching, and guiding others. I have run training programs in the fields of SSRF and mitigation strategies, Cloud specific attacks, image processing and media processor attacks, all the way to more esoteric reconnaissance attack methodology for clients including security powerhouse BugCrowd.

In the time I get to myself I will often find myself taking a new technology apart, or heading outside to engage in some hobbyist geology, or reconnecting to nature with my friends and local hackers. I also enjoy a bit of drawing, and birdwatching, when I find the time!

In addition, I have been invited to present my research and work in over six countries including Australia, US and The Netherlands.

I have participated in bug bounties and been invited to events such as Hack the Pentagon and h1-415. I am an active contributor to the HackerOne platform, among others, which mediate interactions between myself and companies.
In 2019, I found a series of personal information disclosures within the United States Department of Defense software, as well as other vulnerabilities in private companies.

Additionally a team consisting of colleagues and I conducted research on embargoed exploits that were displayed at DEFCON27 regarding Pulse Secure Connected, we subsequently reverse engineered and then created exploit chains to demonstrate the full severity as well as discussed means to protect against these newly published exploits. I am highly autonomous, self-starting, and always on the look-out for new ways of thinking about web application security. I would love to connect and see what I can bring the organization.

Alyssa Osiris Herrera
Security Researcher

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."
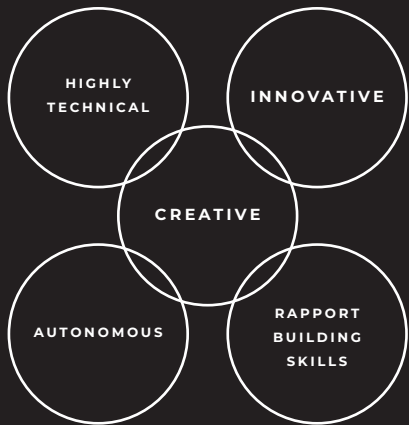*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

CONTACT

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INFO

Name   Alyssa O. Herrera

Nationality   United States

SOFT SKILLS

- HIGHLY TECHNICAL
- INNOVATIVE
- CREATIVE
- AUTONOMOUS
- RAPPORT BUILDING SKILLS

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PROFILE

My primary focus is on Web server, and application security testing/GRC in high-security, primarily military environments.

I have worked for, with, and been featured on such platforms as HackerOne and BugCrowd for my research work and strive to push the boundaries of discovery in cybersecurity.

SKILLS

WEB SERVER SECURITY AUDITING

PRESENTATION AND MENTORING

WEB APPLICATION AUDITING

DATA EXFILTRATION

SOFTWARE REVERSE ENGINEERING

EXPLOIT DEVELOPMENT

WORK

TalonFour Cyber Research Labs   **2018-2019**

Assisted in the development and training of exploit-chains, and related development methodology.

U.S. Military (Airforce, Navy, Army branches)   **2018-2020**

Performed in-depth attack simulation, exploit development, and systems auditing on high-security, mission-critical infrastructure.

BugCrowd   **2016-2020**

As a hand-picked BugCrowd Ambassador, I assisted in the research and development of new exploits, techniques and mitigation strategies for a wide base of clients from a large pool of technical specialities.

EDUCATION

Santa Rosa Junior College   **Sept. 2016**

Santa Rosa,
California
United States.

Rincon Valley Charter School - Sequoia   **Oct. 2012**

Santa Rosa,
California
United States.

INTERESTS

WEB TECHNOLOGY

EXPLOIT DEVELOPMENT

INTELLIGENCE/ RECON

TRAVEL

ART

GEOLOGY

NATURE

SOCIALISING

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AWARDS & TALKS

APPSEC Village - DEFCON27   **2019**
Las Vegas, USA.

U.S. Army Award & Acceptance **2019**
Georgia, USA.

HACK.LU   **2019**
Luxembourg, LU

Hack The Pentagon   **2020**
Washington D.C., USA.

REFERENCES

Jack Darcy
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IBM

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PORTFOLIO

I have extensive experience in advising security solutions, patching and general best of practices towards handling and securing any given systems.
My most recent accomplishments include being researcher of the month for the DoD vulnerability disclosure program, doing a presentation on Server side request forgery attacks and conducting team based research to both reverse engineer and create an exploit chain for Pulse Secure Connect to showcase impact and reveal how blue teams should best defend against such.

SELECTED WORKS

PULSE VPN EXPLOIT CVE-2019–1151/CVE-2019–11539

Developed and reported several high-impact vulnerabilities affecting the Pulse Secure Connect VPN application leading to the assignation of two CVE numbers.

HACK THE PENTAGON/ARMY/AIRFORCE

Conducted offensive assessments of U.S. mission-critical defense systems, enriched findings, and delivered in a concise, detail-oriented reporting structure.

BUGCROWD AMBASSADOR

Acted as an ambassador and researcher, leading discoveries into previously unknown, and unreported vulnerabilities in a wide variety of corporate systems.

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SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

I have spoken, and presented in over six countries, and pride myself on communicating highly complex topics in a concise, actionable way that everybody can connect with.

A selection of the events that I have invited to speak at are as follows:

EVENTS:

Entering NIPRNet, SUE2019, Geldermalsen, NL   **2019**

I presented on server-side request forgery vulnerabilities, how they manifest and their impact ion a web application security. Flaws in cloud hosting services and internally hosted services were also covered, showcasing a real world example of a DoD server compromise and internal network through these attacks.

Hackers to Heroes, Amazon AWS Loft Talk: New York, NY   **2019**

Participated in a discussion about the evolution of hackers and insights into what motivates a hacker, how they think, and common security mistakes startups often make. As well as a discussion about what makes bug bounty programs appealing to hackers, war stories from hackers, and the like.

Server Side Request Forgery, BugCrowd Online, WEB   **2019**

I presented on server side request forgery vulnerabilities alongside another researcher as part of a training series. I covered the basics of server side request forgery, port smuggling attacks, and abusing cloud services with a primary focus on how one would exploit and discover server side request forgery attacks.

Let's All Get Technical and Hunt Harder, DEFCON, NV

I participated in a discussion about bug bounty hunter methodologies, current and future of bug bounties and web hacks that both penetration testers or bug bounty hunters can be knowledgeable of. We go over methodologies, tools of the trade, finding better bugs, and collective war stories we've collected from our experience in the bug bounty scene.

From Villains to Heroes: The Hacker Evolution, GraceHopper Celebration for Women in Technology   **2019**

I led in a discussion of the evolution of hackers, insights into what motivates a hacker, interesting vulnerabilities that we discovered as hackers, as well the issues women face with getting into information security and how someone interested in the field would get into the field.

War stories of a Web Application Security Consultant, Detectify Hacky Hour in Technology   **2020**

During this lightning talk, I discussed security mishaps that I've seen occur frequently with companies. I highlight this by giving examples from clients that have allowed me to discuss these security issues I've found within their systems and highlight the overall importance of frequent patching, revisions and observation of fixed vulnerabilities to prevent any reversions that could allow vulnerabilities to appear again.

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