

AHTISHAM ASHRAF

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER | CYBERSECURITY & TECHNOLOGY LEADER

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linkedin.com/in/ahtishamashraf | Open to UK / Canada / USA relocation | 30-day notice period

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Chief Technology Officer and cybersecurity leader with 10+ years of progressive experience spanning software engineering, penetration testing, security auditing, SecOps, DevSecOps, cloud infrastructure, IT management, and executive technology leadership. Currently lead a 20-40 person multidisciplinary organization across IT, Development, Cyber Security, Marketing, SEO, and Listing Management, supporting 100+ employees and business-critical digital platforms. Experienced in cloud and application security, AI-driven automation, technology strategy, secure software delivery, infrastructure resilience, and large-scale digital transformation.

CORE EXPERTISE

Executive & Leadership: Technology Strategy, Digital Transformation, Engineering Leadership, Cybersecurity Governance, IT Operations, Team Leadership, Vendor Management, Cost Optimization, Product & Platform Strategy

Cybersecurity: Penetration Testing, Vulnerability Assessment, Security Auditing, Application Security, Cloud Security, Network Security, Secure Code Review, Malware Analysis, Incident Analysis, Forensics, Disaster Recovery, OWASP Top 10

Cloud & Infrastructure: AWS (EC2, RDS, S3), Microsoft Azure, GCP, Cloudflare, Docker, Kubernetes, CI/CD, Linux, VPN, Firewalls, High Availability, Infrastructure Hardening

Engineering & Platforms: Next.js, React, React Native, PHP, Laravel, CodeIgniter, MySQL, REST APIs, Webhooks, Python, Bash, Perl, WordPress, Secure SDLC, DevSecOps

Security Technologies: Fortinet, Palo Alto, Snort, Mimecast, Firewall Policy Management, Network Controls, Email Security

Governance & Frameworks: ISO 27001, NIST Cybersecurity Framework, CIS Controls, PCI DSS, GDPR, SOC 2 practices, applicable UAE security requirements

AI & Automation: AI-enabled business automation, internal API platforms, intelligent workflows, real-estate AI systems, system integrations, process automation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Technology Officer (CTO) | Jan 2026 - Present

LuxuryProperty.com - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- Lead company-wide technology strategy and execution across IT, Software Development, Cyber Security, Marketing, SEO, Digital Operations, and Listing Management.
- Provide executive leadership to a multidisciplinary organization of approximately 20-40 professionals, with senior digital leadership and functional teams reporting into the technology organization.
- Oversee technology platforms and services used by 100+ employees, including CRM, websites, business applications, APIs, databases, cloud infrastructure, communication systems, and automation services.
- Manage an interconnected cloud environment of approximately 10 servers and shared backend services, maintaining seamless communication across systems and approximately 99.99% platform availability.
- Reduced technology operating costs while retaining the full team and maintaining service quality, delivery capability, and operational resilience.
- Improved software delivery and code-to-server deployment speed by strengthening engineering workflows, DevSecOps practices, infrastructure automation, and release processes.
- Strengthened application, infrastructure, cloud, API, network, identity, and third-party security while establishing security and technology governance aligned with recognized industry frameworks.
- Led development of Andrea, an in-house AI-powered real-estate API and intelligence platform supporting property discovery, workflow automation, lead processing, and customer-facing digital experiences.
- Improved digital platform performance and contributed to increased website traffic through coordinated technology, infrastructure, marketing, SEO, and platform optimization initiatives.
- Direct strategic relationships and integrations across AWS, Cloudflare, Google, Meta/WhatsApp, Stripe, and other enterprise technology platforms.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED

Head of IT | Jan 2023 - Dec 2025

LuxuryProperty.com - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- Led enterprise IT operations, infrastructure, cybersecurity, technology planning, and software engineering support across the organization.
- Managed AWS EC2, RDS, and S3 environments, implementing security policies, infrastructure hardening, access controls, and performance optimization.
- Oversaw security of corporate websites, CRM platforms, cloud environments, internal networks, shared drives, email systems, and business data.
- Established and enforced IT policies, procedures, standards, and security controls aligned with business requirements and industry best practices.
- Configured and governed firewall policies and network controls while strengthening corporate email security through Mimecast policy management.
- Led and mentored technical teams, collaborated with business stakeholders, managed technology resources, and evaluated emerging technologies for business adoption.

DevSecOps | Sep 2021 - Dec 2022

LuxuryProperty.com - Dubai, United Arab Emirates

- Contributed to development and modernization of the company CRM, delivering major improvements in platform responsiveness, database performance, and operational workflows.
- Optimized application queries and Amazon RDS performance, upgraded production PHP environments, and improved backend reliability and response times.
- Developed automation connecting WhatsApp lead flows directly into the CRM and integrated the platform with Follow Up Boss, Google Calendar, GCP, and other third-party systems.
- Designed multidirectional data integrations using APIs, webhooks, Zapier, cloud services, and internal backend systems.
- Managed and optimized AWS EC2 instances and implemented security policies for servers and S3 environments.
- Guided a development team of approximately 10 engineers while supporting application security, secure delivery, cloud security, and infrastructure operations.

IT & Security Manager | Oct 2020 - Sep 2021

ADS Group

- Managed the IT department and supported development, network, server, CCTV, IP telephony, and information-security operations.
- Designed and implemented a new company IT infrastructure, rebuilt network architecture, configured firewalls, and strengthened server security through policy-based controls.
- Built and integrated a Smart Pass solution with the live website using Raspberry Pi and Google Cloud Platform.
- Prepared on-premises server infrastructure for company websites and organizational data, and deployed access points to improve enterprise connectivity.

Vulnerability Analyst / Penetration Tester | Jul 2019 - Mar 2020

Octarine Security (later acquired by VMware)

- Performed malware and security analysis using Snort, including signature updates, request/log monitoring, malware-header detection, and impact assessment.
- Analyzed suspicious activity and documented potential technical and end-user impacts of identified malware and attack patterns.

Security Auditor | Jan 2019 - Jul 2019

Quake Mining

- Performed security assessment of a Canadian fintech / crypto platform across web, API, mobile application, and cloud components.
- Reported vulnerabilities, supported cloud and web-application hardening, identified mobile security weaknesses, and strengthened API token protection.

EARLIER CYBERSECURITY & ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

SecOps / Team Lead | Jan 2018 - Dec 2018

BlueEast

- Worked on the Bluebase.JS framework and IoT integrations with AWS Cloud, connecting device controls to cross-platform mobile applications.
- Implemented AWS security policies, managed delivery timelines, reviewed application code, and removed unused or insecure code.
- Strengthened two-way client/server communication and supported secure application architecture and development practices.

Security Auditor | Mar 2017 - Jan 2018

FundFantasy

- Performed security audits of a P2P blockchain/token platform, reviewing server, web-application, and source-code security.
- Identified more than 40 critical vulnerabilities and worked with the engineering team to remediate security weaknesses and harden the application environment.
- Reviewed code, strengthened secure routes, and supported end-to-end encrypted traffic implementation.

Web Developer & Cyber Security Engineer | Mar 2015 - Mar 2017

Zen of Ruby

- Developed web and mobile applications using ReactJS, PHP, CodeIgniter, Laravel, Yii2, Drupal, WordPress, OpenCart, React Native, and custom PHP frameworks.
- Implemented local-server cybersecurity controls, security policies, and VPN-restricted access while supporting secure application development.

Independent Cyber Security Engineer & Full-Stack Developer | Mar 2015 - Present

Freelancer.com / Project-based engagements

- Delivered cybersecurity and software-development projects for international clients, maintaining 5-star client feedback on completed engagements.
- Provided ethical hacking, security assessment, forensic support, disaster recovery, OWASP Top 10 testing, cloud hardening, and secure-development services.
- Developed automation and data-processing scripts in Python, Perl, and Bash; built and secured AWS environments; and implemented Fortinet and Palo Alto firewall policies.
- Performed security audits of web and cloud applications and delivered secure websites, APIs, mobile applications, and infrastructure solutions for client projects.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (Software Engineering) | Mar 2017 - Dec 2021

Virtual University of Pakistan | CGPA: 3.00 / 4.00

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH) - EC-Council | Certificate No. ECC0235846197
- Certified Hacking Forensic Investigator (CHFI) - EC-Council
- Certified Network Defender (CND) - EC-Council

SELECTED CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Progressed within LuxuryProperty.com from DevSecOps to Head of IT and then Chief Technology Officer.
- Leadership scope spans technology, cybersecurity, development, marketing, SEO, and listing-management operations.
- Career foundation combines software engineering with offensive security, security auditing, SecOps, DevSecOps, infrastructure, and executive technology leadership.
- International relocation target: United Kingdom, Canada, or United States; available on a 30-day notice period.