

## Ben S. Knowles

## Information Security Engineer and Educator

Associate of Science, Computer Science | Associate of Science, Psychology

Black Box Software Tester | CISSP | SANS GIAC GSEC, GCIA, GCIH | ITILF | Linux Professional

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### *Certifications:*

#### **Global Information Assurance Council ( GIAC )**

GIAC Security Essentials Certification Gold ( GSEC ), awarded

Mar 2014

#### **PeopleSoft**

Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) Foundations ( ITILF )

Apr 2013

#### **International Information Systems Security Certification Consortium (ISC<sup>2</sup>)**

Certified Information Systems Security Professional ( CISSP )

Sep 2012

#### **Global Information Assurance Council ( GIAC )**

GIAC Certified Intrusion Analyst Silver ( GCIA )

Aug 2012

#### **Black Box Software Testing Project (BBST) / Association for Software Testers (AST)**

Black Box Software Tester ( BBST )

Nov 2011

#### **Global Information Assurance Council ( GIAC )**

GIAC Certified Incident Handler Silver ( GCIH )

July 2011

#### **Linux Professional Institute (LPI)**

Level One Certification ( LPIC-1 )

Dec 2010

### *Recent Classes Taught:*

#### **Association for Software Testing**

FND101: Black Box Software Testing: Foundations, as Asst. Instructor

June – July 2014

#### **SANS Institute**

SEC504: Hacker Techniques, Exploits, and Incident Handling (GCIH), as Mentor

May – July 2014

#### **SANS Institute**

SEC504: Hacker Techniques, Exploits, and Incident Handling (GCIH), as Mentor

April – July 2013

#### **SANS Institute**

SEC401: Security Essentials (GSEC), as Mentor

Oct – Dec 2012

### *Recent Computer Work:*

Security Engineer, Web.com

Oct 2013 – current

- SOC and CSIRT tools and processes design and deployment
- Senior Incident Handler and Incident Coordinator
- Incident handling and analysis education: brownbags and workshops

Security Analyst, CISO Threat Resistance: Dell SecureWorks

May 2012 – Sep 2013

- Prevent and respond to security events and incidents on global enterprise network
- Develop, deploy, tune state of the art Network Security Monitoring (NSM) and hunting technology
- Artifact triage and analysis with automated tools including Cuckoo Sandbox and Mastiff

Lead Analyst, CISO Countermeasures: Dell SecureWorks

Sep 2011 – May 2012

- Threat focused internal incident response and information security
- Direct, perform, track, report, and analyze all counters to threat activity
- Maintain and operate defensive security technologies including IPS and proxies

NOC Lead, IT Service Management: SecureWorks

Mar 2010 – Sep 2011

- Track, report, analyze incidents: outages and investigations
- Work with IT, Operations, Research, and Risk Management leadership
- Building out full service NOC and Service Desk functions

Systems Administrator, NOC : SecureWorks Nov 2009 – Sep 2011

- Administration of hundreds of RHEL, Debian, and BSD servers, physical and virtual
- High security environments across multiple sites in a regulated industry
- Incident Response, Triage, and Escalations, Manage ticketing and alerting infrastructure
- Made NOC Lead, March 2010

Independent Contracting, Community, and Volunteer Work : ongoing

- Presenter, DC404
  - **Breaking into Information Security: some infosec career tips** Feb 2014
  - **Sift your ... before you Autopsy: Learn digital forensics with free tools** July 2014
- Technical Reviewer for SANS 2012 - 2014
- Exam question author for GIAC 2011,2013
- Participant: [WTST](#) 2012 : Workshop on Teaching Security Related Software Testing
  - **Vulnerability Lifecycle for Testers** Jan 2012
- Web application/LMS consulting, BBST , Education SIG, [AST](#)
- System Integration of Win, Mac, Linux Servers running open source software

System Administrator II : National Net, Inc: Oct 2006 – Feb 2009

- Part of a small SA team at a big Linux web host: Data center with more than 1600 hosts
- Software and Hardware troubleshooting, Live incident response
- Shift lead on weekend nights for more than a year

Network Administration : MMI -> Contexo Media : Aug 2004 – Sep 2006

- Designed, rebuilt, developed, and supported a mixed Linux/Mac office network for two years
- Production Web, Mail, DNS services, VPN, File Shares, Databases, Revision Control, Printing, Remote Access, Ticketing, et al
- Defense in depth, proactive patching, least privilege

Hands On Training : H & H Computer Education : 2004-2005

- Taught Intro to PC Tech part time to diverse groups at local computer shops
- Helped students prepare for the A+, Net+, MCSA, and MCSE certification tests.
- Used Linux boot media and open source tools including *memtest86* and *lspci* to teach troubleshooting

**Formal Education:**

**Associate Of Science, Computer Science**  
 Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia, USA May 2002

**Associate Of Science, Psychology**  
 Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, Georgia, USA Aug 2002

**Academic Diploma with Honors**  
 Chamblee High School, Chamblee, Georgia, USA June 1995

**Computer Skills and Knowledge Domains:**

**System Administration:**

- Linux, Windows, Macintosh platforms
- Basic scripting in shell, Perl, Python, ruby
- VMWare, kvm, VirtualBox
- Support sysadmins, developers, researchers, testers, and users

**Security Domain Knowledge:**

- vulnerability lifecycle
- defense in depth strategies
- host, network, and web application security
- incident response and forensics
- secure software development

**Security Tools:**

- Wireshark, tcpdump
- nmap, netcat, nessus
- snort, snorby, Bro
- Sleuth Kit, Autopsy, FTK
- Volatility Framework
- Cuckoo Sandbox
- Security Onion