

Chef to Hacker

Extracting previous career skills, infusing them with infosec, and whipping yourself into a spicy penetration tester

Kathy Collins

Security Consultant Secure Ideas, LLC

- Secure Ideas since 2021
- Based in Jacksonville, Florida
- CISSP, PCIP

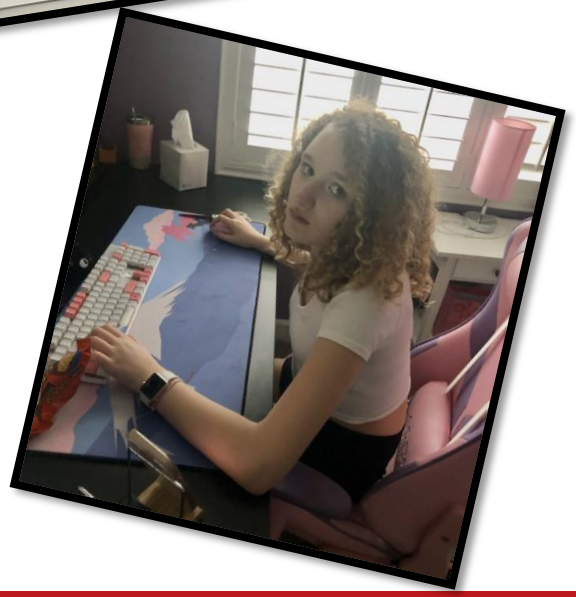


Focus Areas

- Networks
- Web Applications
- PCI DSS
- Physical Pentesting

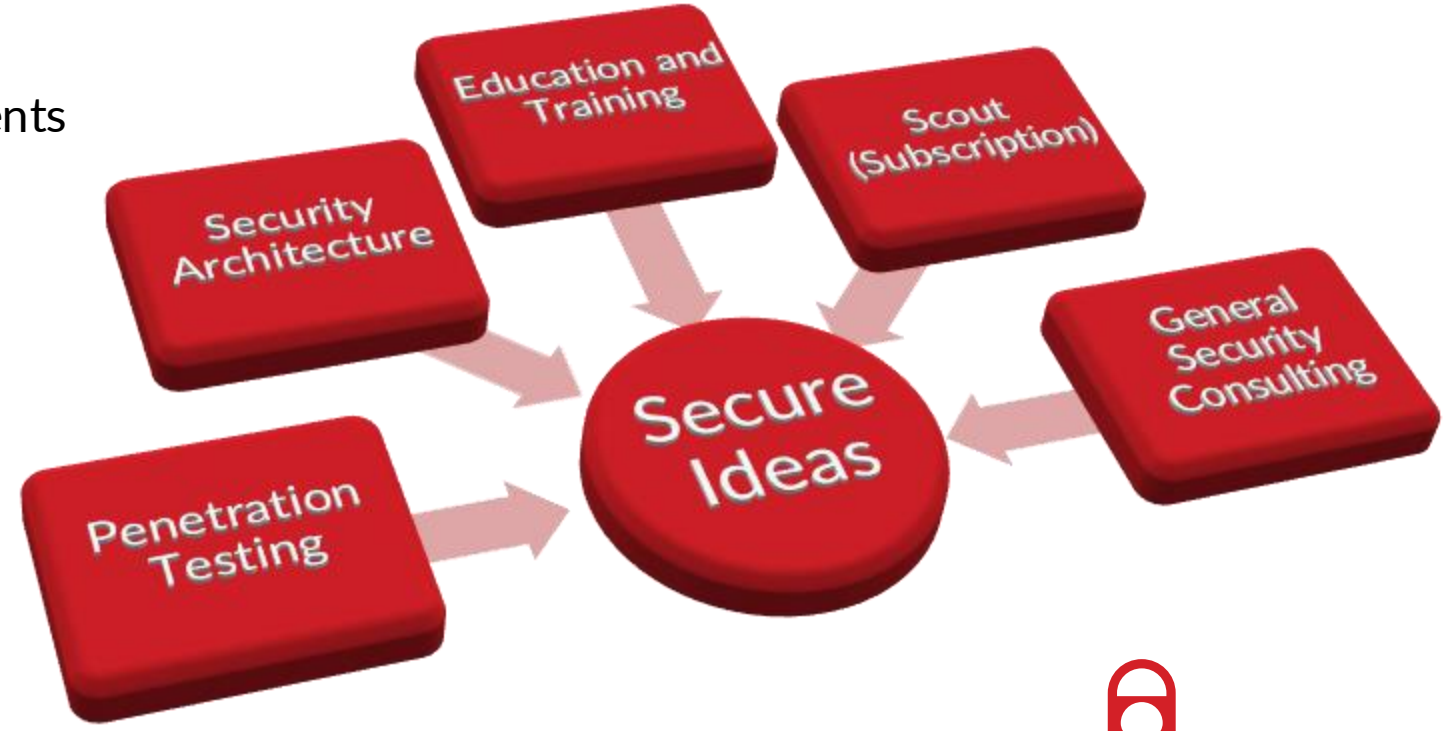
Other Fun Facts

- Former Chef
- Mother of doggos (and a teenager)
- Horror Nerd
- BSides Jacksonville Coordinator
- Costco Member



About Secure Ideas

- Founded in September 2010
  - Kevin Johnson: CEO, former SANS instructor and author
- Based in Jacksonville, FL
  - Consultants live around the country
- Expert Security Consultants
  - Penetration Testing & Vuln Assessments
  - Security Architecture Reviews
  - Education (training, conference talks)
- "Security Evangelists"
  - Open Source authors/contributors
  - Blogs (blog.secureideas.com)
  - "Heart of a Teacher"



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What is "Professionally Evil"?

professionally evil®

We need to think "evil" so we can understand **how** an attacker will behave and **what** they will attack.

And we are Professional:

- Help companies improve their security posture
- Permission: Penetration Testing is always under contract
- Establish and follow rules of engagement



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Who is this for?



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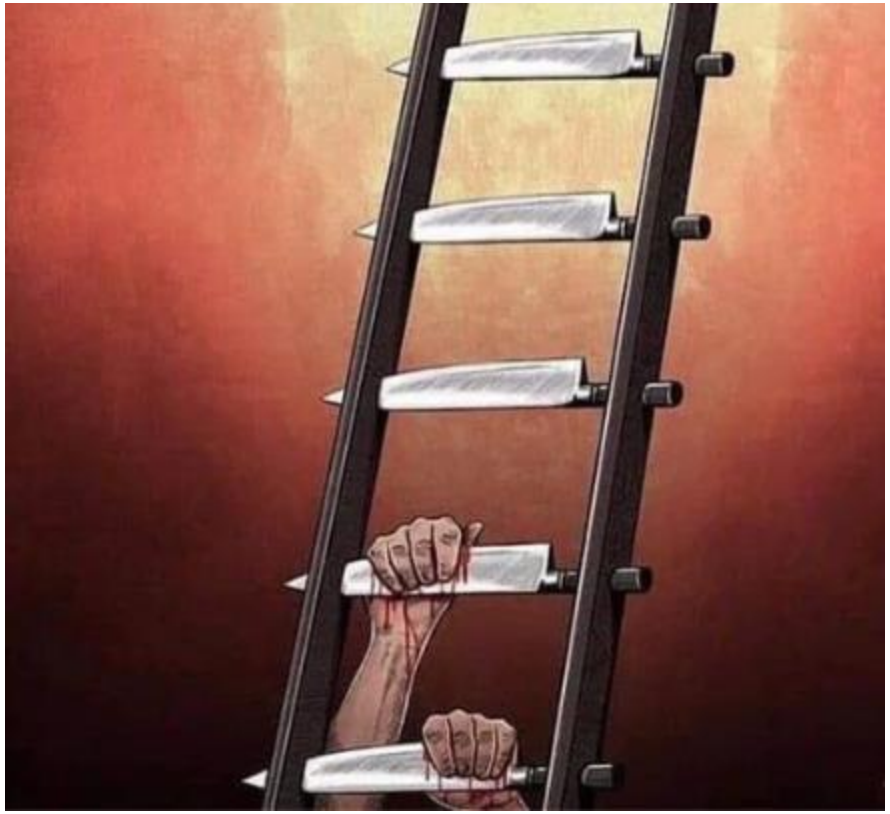
Choose Your Own Adventure



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What is the goal here?

What are we hacking?

Recognize your potential!

Don't focus solely on technical skills.

Leverage and take advantage of the resources available to **YOU.**

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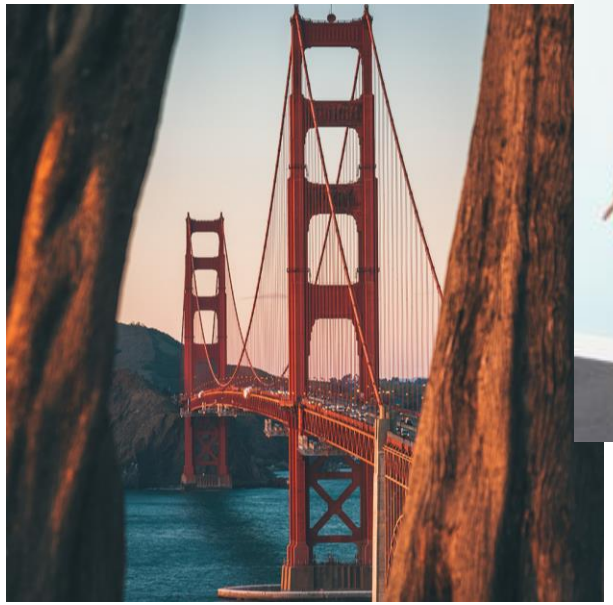
Why do I think this matters?

- Diversity of Thought Matters
- Your Skills Are Needed
- We Protect People
- Step Out of Comfort Zones
- Bring Your *Full Self*







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What could I bring to the table?

Probably more than you think…

Challenges & Difficult Situations

Achievements & Accomplishments

Skills & Abilities

Lessons Learned

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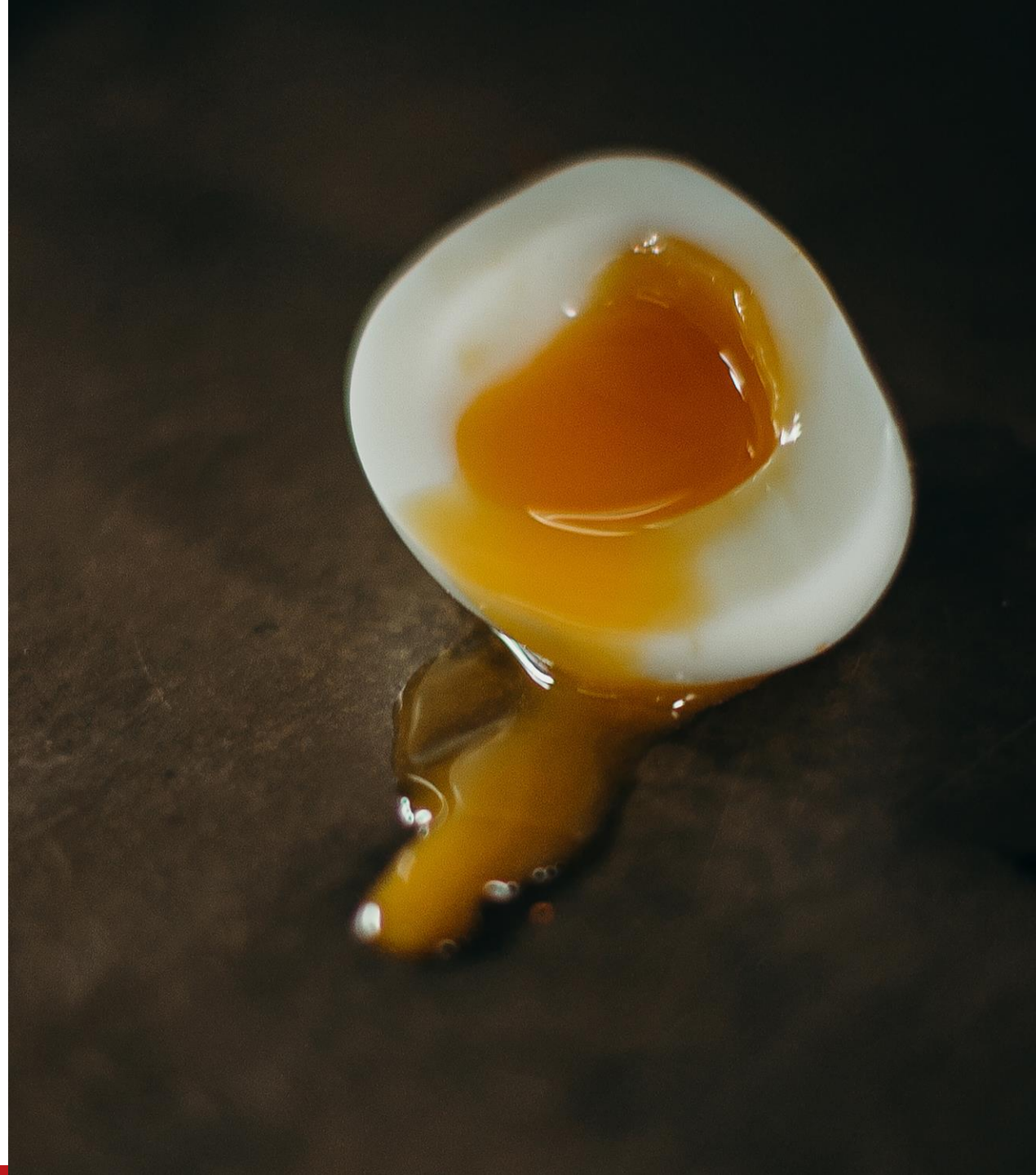
What are these "soft skills"?

- Communication
- Teamwork
- Adaptability
- Time Management
- Problem Solving
- Leadership
- Emotional Intelligence
- Creativity
- Interpersonal Skills
- Critical Thinking
- Conflict Resolution



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Where Do I Start – or Level Up?

Traditional Growth Paths

- College Degrees
- Industry Certifications
- Entry-Level Jobs
- Professional Networking
- Community Involvement
- Specialization Tracks
- On-the-Job Experience



Modern Growth Paths

- Online Learning & Self-Study
- Home Labs & Test Environments
- Open Source Contributions
- Conferences, Meetups, Online Community
- Bootcamps
- CTF's & Skill Challenges
- Building a Personal Portfolio



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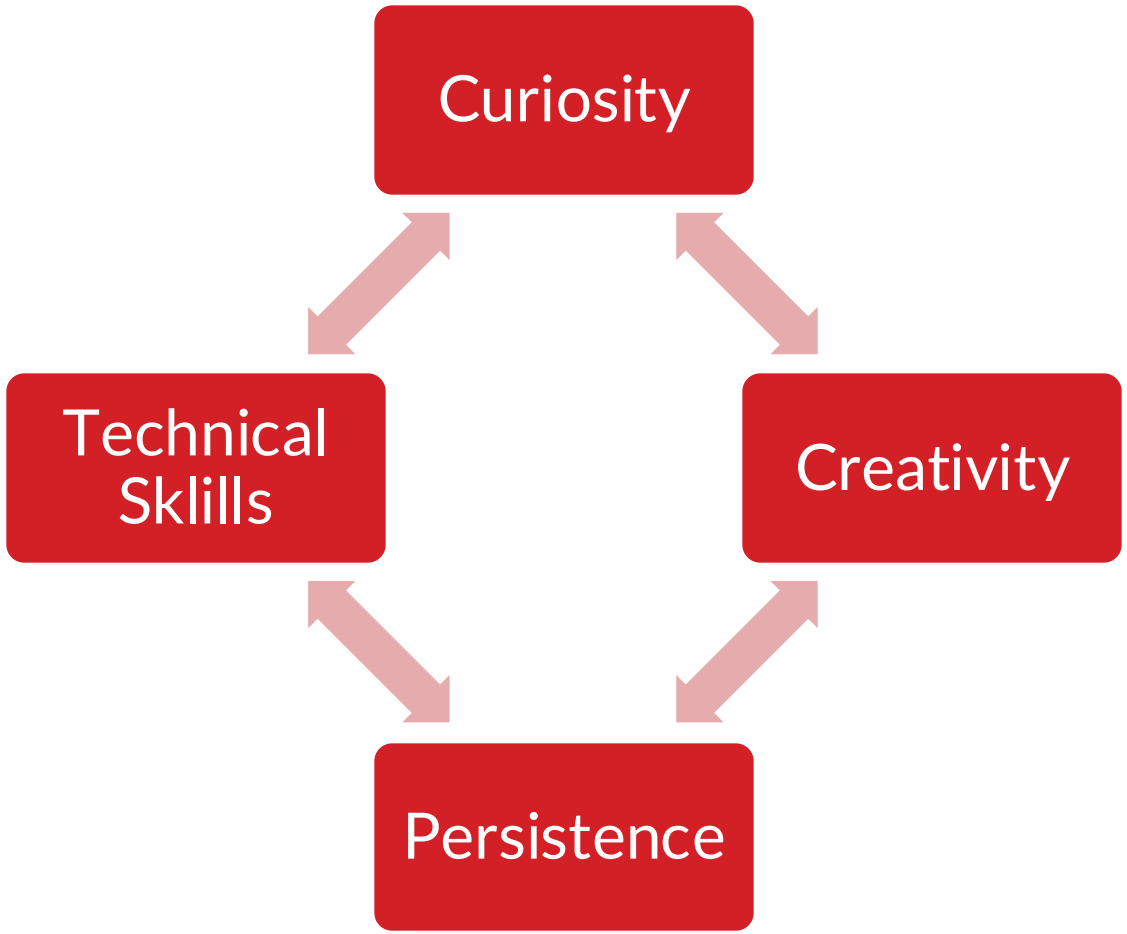
Food for thought



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Questions?



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