

Aurel-Dragoş Hofnăr

Security is a mindset and I have my mind set for it.

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EXPERIENCE

Banca Transilvania, Romania — Cybersecurity Operations Team Lead

2025.apr - present

Since April 2025, I am leading the Cybersecurity Operations team in implementing advanced security controls and monitoring strategies to protect the bank's infrastructure. We continuously evaluate and integrate cutting-edge tools and threat intelligence to detect and respond to evolving cyber threats in real time. Our focus is on maintaining a resilient security posture through automation, incident response readiness, and continuous improvement of defense mechanisms.

Banca Transilvania, Romania — Cybersecurity Team Lead

2020.aug - 2025.mar

Since August 2020, I have been leading a team of talented and motivated colleagues, driving efforts to meet the bank's security needs and maintain a robust cybersecurity posture. Our team continually experiments with new technologies and adapts to the ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity, ensuring cutting-edge protection and innovation.

Banca Transilvania, Romania — Information and IT Security Specialist

2016.mar - 2020.aug

As part of the information and IT security team, I took on diverse responsibilities, including technical analysis, design, implementation, and operation of the company's cybersecurity solutions. I reviewed the security needs and design decisions of new products, identified threats within the network, and developed innovative tools to streamline and enhance the department's daily activities.

SKILLS

problem solving, oriented thinking from a security perspective, teamwork, communication and organisational skills, all around fun guy

INTERESTS

GNU/Linux enthusiast

VPS Administrator running webserver and services like OpenVPN and IRC gateway

Participation at various CTF competitions with focus on security

Technical challenges participation like AdventOfCode, hackthis.co.uk, Hack The Box, TryHackMe, etc.

Constant activity in personal projects of real and virtual nature

LANGUAGES

Romanian (native speaker)

German (German Language Certificate of the Education Ministers Conference, level C1)
English (university level)

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), International Information System Security Certification Consortium

2023.sep

The CISSP is a globally recognized certification for information security professionals, validating expertise in designing, implementing, and managing a secure IT infrastructure. Proof at <https://hofnar.ro/cissp>



EDUCATION

Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania — *Master of Science in Cybersecurity*

2023 - 2025 (est.)

Study of cybersecurity with a focus on theoretical foundations and practical applications, including secure software design, cryptography, network and web security, cloud security, and entrepreneurial skills in IT.

Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania — *Master of Science in Information and Computing Systems Security*

2017 - 2019

Study of information and information technology security related subjects with focus on both the theoretical and the practical aspects.

Graz University of Technology, Austria — *Bachelor of Science in Computer Science*

2010 - 2015

Theoretical and practical study of computer science related topics like mathematics, computer organisation, databases, software development, data structures, algorithm analysis and development, operating systems development, computer vision/graphics, theoretical computer science, networking, computational intelligence and many more — German and English teaching language.

Joseph Haltrich High School, Sighișoara (Romania) — *Baccalaureate Diploma*

2006 - 2010

Mathematics and informatics intensive section — German teaching language.

PROJECTS

Host Oriented Factor Normalizing Authentication Resource

— *Master Thesis*

Supervisor: Assist.Prof.Eng. Marius Joldos

— grade: 10 — <https://hofnar.ro/legacy>

Data Research and Analysis Given One Sugarscape

— *Bachelor Thesis*

Supervisor: Assoc.Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr.techn. Denis Helic (Dean of Studies) —

grade: 1.0 — <https://hofnar.ro/sugarscape>

SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Security related tools (in no particular order): vulnerability scanners, sandboxes, internet fraud prevention, anti-virus, NGAV, EDR, XDR, network visibility solutions, IDS, SIEM, patch management, DLP, STIX/ TAXII, YARA, NGIDS, proxy, awareness training, incident response and many more.

Computer science related domains: familiar with MIPS architecture, the usual data structures and algorithms, graph theory, complexity theory, microcontrollers, machine learning, artificial neural networks, distributed and real-time systems, logic and computability, software paradigms, human computer interaction, usability engineering etc.

Programming languages: Python, BASH, Golang, C/C++, Java, PHP, Javascript, jQuery, Scala, SWI-Prolog, Verilog, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Pascal

Technologies: OpenCV, HTML, CSS, Node.js, LaTeX, Matlab, bash, Apache, NGINX, SVN, GIT, XML, JSON, SSL certificates, various packages/modules for various programming languages like matplotlib, numpy and requests, Adobe Photoshop, GIMP, OpenVPN, GNU toolchain and many others.

All the above mentioned tools/domains/technologies/programs are sustained by professional, personal or educational projects/work and I am glad to provide further information about any of them upon request as well as recommendations from employer or colleagues.