

# Jason Wacker

## IT & Cybersecurity Professional

- > Park Ridge, IL
- > [wacker.jason@gmail.com](mailto:wacker.jason@gmail.com)
- > +1-224-616-7487
- > [linkedin.com/in/jasonrwacker](https://linkedin.com/in/jasonrwacker)
- > [tryhackme.com/p/wacker.jason](https://tryhackme.com/p/wacker.jason)
- > [cybergrind.org](https://cybergrind.org)

## SUMMARY

Dedicated IT and cybersecurity professional with 12+ years of experience delivering robust infrastructure, network solutions, and security programs. Proven expertise in Microsoft 365, Azure, endpoint management, NIST frameworks, and risk management. Active practitioner in threat modeling, security awareness, and GRC — with hands-on homelab experience and an ongoing personal cybersecurity platform at [cybergrind.org](https://cybergrind.org). Member of TryHackMe, Hack The Box, IEEE, and SimplyCyber.

## EXPERIENCE

### Senior IT Manager of Infrastructure & Cybersecurity

July 2021 – Present

#### PAWS Chicago — Chicago, IL

- > Serve as network/systems administrator managing Azure cloud infrastructure and endpoint compliance via Microsoft Intune.
- > Plan, deploy, and secure network assets including firewalls and VPNs, ensuring CIA triad compliance.
- > Developed and executed Business Continuity Plans, disaster recovery strategies, and security testing programs.
- > Managed IT budgeting and procurement, achieving a 10% reduction in operational costs.
- > Conducted NIST SP 800-53 control audits including interviews, document review, and system testing.
- > Semi-quantitatively analyzed cybersecurity risk using NIST SP 800-30 methodology.
- > Executed threat modeling exercises to identify higher-likelihood threat events for risk modeling.
- > Developed Information Security policy for access and authentication management aligned to business objectives.

- > Created targeted cybersecurity awareness content for emerging threats, improving end-user cyber hygiene.

## Advanced Repair Agent

February 2013 – Present

### Best Buy Geek Squad — Arlington Heights, IL

- > Diagnosed and resolved hardware/software issues for Windows and macOS systems, maintaining 95%+ customer satisfaction.
- > Conducted end-user training sessions improving technical proficiency and operational efficiency.
- > Developed streamlined repair workflows reducing repair time by 15% and improving customer retention.
- > Assisted with IT use policy development and adherence to security best practices.

## Systems Technician

May 2013 – July 2021

### Lyons Township High School — La Grange, IL

- > Maintained LAN/WAN environment supporting 5,000+ endpoints at 95%+ uptime.
- > Managed device inventory and lifecycle replacement schedules for seamless hardware upgrades.
- > Authored network documentation and self-service guides, reducing helpdesk tickets by 20%.
- > Created and deployed Windows 10 workstation images company-wide with driver and application integration.
- > Patched security vulnerabilities and deployed updates using WSUS across Windows workstations.

## SKILLS

### NETWORKING

Cisco, HP Aruba  
LAN/WAN, VPN, Firewalls  
3CX VoIP  
Hyper-V, Proxmox

### SECURITY & GRC

NIST CSF, SP 800-53, SP  
800-30  
Threat Modeling  
Risk Management  
Disaster Recovery

### PLATFORMS & TOOLS

Microsoft 365, Azure, Intune  
Active Directory, PowerShell  
Salesforce, ZenDesk  
Mosyle, Apple Business  
Manager

### DEVELOPMENT

Hugo (Static Sites)  
Python, Bash  
Docker, Cloudflare Workers  
Git, GitHub Actions

### SECURITY TOOLS

Wazuh SIEM  
Sophos  
OSINT frameworks  
CTF / Penetration Testing

### SOFT SKILLS

Stakeholder Engagement  
IT Budgeting & Procurement  
End-User Training  
Cross-departmental  
Collaboration

## CERTIFICATIONS

### CISSP

In Progress

### CompTIA Network+

Current

### TryHackMe — Cyber Security 101

2024

### Implementing the NIST Risk Management Framework

2024

### IT & Cybersecurity Risk Management Essential Training

2024

### SOC 2 Compliance Essential Training

2024

### Threat Modeling: Denial of Service & Expansion of Authority

2024

### Threat Modeling: Tampering in Depth

2024

### Managed Detection and Response (MDR) Fundamentals

2024

### Mitigating Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities

2024

### Complete Guide to IAM for Network Engineers

2024

### Microsoft 365: Administration

2024

### Cybersecurity Foundations

2024

### Introduction to IT Asset Management (ITAM)

2024

## EDUCATION

**B.S. in Information Technology, Cybersecurity**

2025 – 2027

Strayer University

## Bachelor in Information Technology

2009 – 2012

University of Phoenix

## Bachelor in Networking Telecommunications

2005 – 2007

DeVry University

### PROJECTS

#### CyberGrind

[cybergrind.org](https://cybergrind.org) ↗

Personal cybersecurity platform built with Hugo and deployed on Cloudflare Pages. Features a self-hosted threat intelligence pipeline, live global threat map powered by AbuseIPDB, AI governance framework series, CTF write-ups, and automated daily cybersecurity news with Ollama commentary. Includes a suite of Cloudflare Workers integrating CISA KEV, EPSS, NVD, and OSINT feeds.

Hugo

Cloudflare Workers

Python

Docker

D3.js

AbuseIPDB

OSINT

Threat Intel

#### Homelab

Self-built lab environment for hands-on security research and skill development.

Active Directory structure (local)

Storage Area Network (Windows)

Plex & Jellyfin media servers

Wazuh SIEM on Ubuntu Server

### VOLUNTEERING

#### Dog Walker

September 2016 – Present

PAWS Chicago