

LEIF R. BRUCE

BSc (Hons) Ethical Hacking (2:1) · Active Directory and Web Application Penetration Testing

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HTB RANK

Master · Level 65

PRO LABS COMPLETED

Zephyr · Dante

DEGREE

2:1 · NCSC certified

NEXT CERTIFICATION

HTB CPTS

01 PROFILE

BSc (Hons) Ethical Hacking graduate (2:1) from Abertay University, on a degree certified by the National Cyber Security Centre. My honours project evaluated NixOS as a reproducible alternative to Kali Linux, and I have carried that research on as IceBreaker, a declarative NixOS penetration testing environment.

Hack The Box Master rank at level 65, with the Dante and Zephyr Pro Labs completed. Zephyr is where most of my Active Directory experience comes from: relay attacks, pivoting, password attacks, privilege escalation and crossing trust boundaries across a multi-domain estate. I play HTB Seasons to keep my enumeration sharp between labs, and CPTS is my next certification. I also build my own tooling, including Percival, a Rust OSINT tool covering 5,700+ sites, and DAEMONBins, which merges GTF0Bins, LOLBAS and WADComs into one catalogue. I am looking for a first role in offensive security or a SOC.

02 CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS

Active Directory	Kerberoasting, AS-REP roasting, RBCD, AD CS abuse (ESC1-ESC8), DCSync, NTDS.dit extraction via DiskShadow, NTLM relay, credential spraying, cross-forest trust abuse, pivoting and tunnelling
Web Applications	SQL injection, XXE, SSRF, file upload abuse, directory traversal, authentication bypass, IDOR, command injection, WordPress and custom CMS testing, OWASP Top 10
Offensive Tooling	Burp Suite Pro, BloodHound, Impacket, Certipy, NetExec, BloodyAD, Rubeus, Evil-WinRM, Responder, Ligolo-ng, Havoc C2, Metasploit, Nmap, ffuf, Nuclei, SQLMap, Hashcat
Detection & Forensics	Wireshark, Volatility 3, memory and disk forensics, MITRE ATT&CK mapping, detection notes for living-off-the-land techniques
Languages & Platforms	Python, Bash, PowerShell, Rust, Nix, TypeScript, SQL, C++, LaTeX ; Kali Linux, NixOS, Arch, Debian, Windows, macOS
Professional	Penetration test reporting, methodical documentation, remediation advice, explaining risk to non-technical stakeholders

03 PRACTICAL SECURITY EXPERIENCE

- Zephyr** · Hack The Box Pro Lab, enterprise Active Directory Mar 2026
- Compromised a multi-domain Active Directory estate end to end, chaining relay attacks, credential spraying and certificate template abuse to reach Domain Admin.
 - Pivoted across segmented subnets to reach otherwise unreachable hosts, then crossed a trust boundary to complete the objective.
 - Documented each attack path with its remediation in a structured write-up.
- Dante** · Hack The Box Pro Lab, full network compromise Feb 2026
- Fully compromised a segmented, multi-subnet network, gaining initial access through web application flaws and exposed services.
 - Modified public exploit code where off-the-shelf payloads failed, then moved laterally with harvested credentials.
 - Escalated privileges on Linux and Windows hosts through misconfiguration analysis.

04 TOOLS & PROJECTS

- IceBreaker** · Declarative NixOS penetration testing environment 2025 - Present
-  
- Built a reproducible offensive security environment that rebuilds the full tooling stack from one declarative configuration, removing setup drift between engagements.
 - Carries the honours project into daily use, packaging tools missing from upstream repositories.

Rust OSINT gitlab.com/DAEMON-404/percival

- Single Rust binary merging the WhatsMyName, Sherlock and Maigret databases into 5,700+ deduplicated sites.
- Re-checks every hit against a random canary username to flag false positives, and reports WAF, captcha and rate-limit blocks instead of counting them as misses.
- Pivots on handles found in profiles, checks the Wayback Machine for deleted accounts, and exports HTML, JSON, CSV and Graphviz reports.

DAEMONBins · Living-off-the-land catalogue

Astro TypeScript Zod lol1.daemon-sec.xyz

- Merged GTF0Bins, LOLBAS and WADComs into one catalogue of 2,885 techniques across 842 tools, each with its command, MITRE ATT&CK mapping, detection guidance and references.
- Authored 179 entries, 134 fact-checked WADComs additions and 45 techniques from 2024–2026, with every record schema-validated at build time.

daemon-sec.xyz and Cheatsheet Vault · Research site and reference material

React TypeScript Express Astro daemon-sec.xyz cheatsheet.daemon-sec.xyz

- Publish lab and CTF write-ups behind a vault secured with Argon2id hashing, signed sessions, login throttling and security regression tests, alongside a payload obfuscation tool that pairs each encoding with the telemetry that detects it.
- Maintain 60 cheatsheets across 12 domains with offline search, plus PayloadsAllTheThings mirrors synced daily through CI and gated on build and tests.

05 EDUCATION

BSc (Hons) Ethical Hacking · Abertay University, Dundee

Second Class Honours, Upper Division (2:1) · Degree certified by the National Cyber Security Centre · Graduated 10 July 2026

- Honours project:** “NixOS as a Kali Linux Alternative”, evaluating NixOS as a reproducible, declarative offensive security platform against Kali Linux on tooling coverage and deployment repeatability.
- Key modules:** Advanced Ethical Hacking, Web Application Penetration Testing, Advanced Digital Forensics, Engineering Resilient Systems, IoT and Cloud Secure Development, Computer Networking 2.
- Community:** Abertay Ethical Hacking Society member; attended Securi-Tay every year since 2022.

06 CERTIFICATIONS

HTB Pro Labs: Zephyr 40 CPE 13 Mar 2026 Hack The Box · Credential HTBCERT-033F77F2E0	HTB Pro Labs: Dante 40 CPE Feb 2026 Hack The Box · Credential HTBCERT-12A3F211A0
CCNAv7: Introduction to Networks Jun 2022 Cisco Networking Academy · Dundee and Angus College	SIA Door Supervisor Licence 2023 Security Industry Authority

07 EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Security Officer / Door Supervisor · Security Scotland Ltd

SIA-licensed · Fat Sam’s Dundee · Celtic FC · NHS Covid testing site, Edinburgh

- Front-line security at high-footfall venues alongside full-time study, to strict licensing and reporting standards.
- Named Employee of the Month for intervening in a public safety incident, stopping traffic and helping bring a distressed person down from a bridge until police arrived.
- Built the composure, clear escalation and accurate written reporting that carry over to incident handling.

08 REFERENCES

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