

MICHAEL NICHOLS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cybersecurity professional with strong foundation in compliance frameworks (SOC 2, HIPAA, NIST CSF). Demonstrated expertise in conducting security assessments, developing compliance documentation, and performing gap analyses to enhance organizational security posture. Experienced in coordinating compliance processes across stakeholders to support authorization readiness. Building proficiency with AWS security expertise through implementing account governance, automated access reviews, and continuous compliance monitoring.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cybersecurity Frameworks: SOC 2, HIPAA Security Rule, NIST CSF

Cloud Security: AWS IAM, CloudTrail, CloudWatch, AWS Config, Security Hub, AWS Lambda

Governance & Compliance: Risk Assessment, Gap Analysis, Audit Support, Regulatory Documentation

WORK EXPERIENCE

GRC Analyst

May 2024 – September 2025

Symposia, Remote

- Conducted SOC 2 Type II readiness assessment for Azure-hosted SOC-as-a-Service platform supporting Fortune 500 expansion within 12-14 months.
- Performed third-party risk assessment of \$2.4M IaaS vendor handling PII/PHI for telehealth platform; reviewed SIG Lite, SOC 2 audit report, and pen test to identify control gaps in disaster recovery and access management
- Completed HIPAA Security Rule assessment for telehealth organization, evaluating 12+ access management requirements across 10 IT assets including identity management and cloud infrastructure.
- Developed NIST CSF Tier 1 to Tier 2 maturity roadmap for web development firm; delivered remediation plan addressing security governance, risk management, asset management, and data protection domains

Data Compliance Analyst

February 2024 – November 2024

Foro Energy, Milliken, CO

- Maintained 100% compliance with state regulations for 700+ well abandonment operations, preventing regulatory violations.
- Processed and verified regulatory documentation for 70+ wells monthly, ensuring 811 WTE and state compliance while maintaining data integrity.
- Conducted daily well-status audits and collaborated with regulatory agencies, vendor partners, and internal operations to ensure data integrity and operational compliance.
- Performed 100+ well operation invoices monthly across 3 enterprise systems (GEP, SAP, Open Invoice), ensuring accurate cost allocation and financial documentation.

Information Security Intern

June 2023 – August 2023

Ent Credit Union, Colorado Springs, CO

- Assessed asset inventory, implementing decommissioning strategies that reduced operational costs by \$2,500 monthly (\$30,000 annually).
- Analyzed telecom system data using ServiceNow ITSM and Cisco Security Suite to investigate service delivery escalations and document process gaps.
- Refined access controls for 25+ employees using Microsoft Azure IAM, reducing privileged accounts by 20% and improving least privilege enforcement.
- Created threat intelligence system using Carbon Black Cloud, establishing 10-tier severity-based IoC watchlist with documentation for threat mitigation.

PROJECTS

AWS Account Governance Lab | IAM Identity Center, CloudTrail, AWS Config, Security Hub

- Secured root account with MFA and implemented IAM Identity Center (SSO) with role-based permission sets.
- Configured CloudTrail with CloudWatch alarms to detect root logins, sign-in failures, and IAM policy changes.
- Enabled AWS Config rules and Security Hub to enforce compliance with AWS Foundational Best Practices and CIS benchmarks.

AWS Automated Access Review Lab | Lambda, Security Hub, IAM Access Analyzer, SES, Bedrock

- Deployed serverless automation for recurring IAM access reviews to generate audit-ready CSV reports for continuous monitoring.
- Integrated Security Hub and IAM Access Analyzer to detect overly permissive roles, missing MFA, and public resource exposure.
- Leveraged Amazon Bedrock creating AI-powered executive summaries, designed to support SOC 2 Type II audit workflows.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS

December 2023

Bachelor of Science in International Business & Finance