ELAINE ZHU

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Available for Summer 2026 full-time positions

EDUCATION

Northeastern University   **Sep 2022 - May 2026**
Candidate for Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Criminal Justice   *Boston, MA*
- GPA: 3.77/4.00
- Honors: University Honors Program, Dean's List (all semesters)
- Relevant courses: Object Oriented Design, Systems Security, Computer Networks, Programming Languages

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

PricewaterhouseCoopers   **Jul 2025 - Present**
Cybersecurity Consultant Co-op   *Boston, MA*
- Evaluated cybersecurity risks in vendor partnerships and third-party integrations for clients.

Cybersecurity and Privacy Institute at Northeastern University   **Jan 2023 - Present**
Research Assistant   *Boston, MA*
- Co-authored publications investigating voice assistants' profiling practices and custom pedagogical tools efficacy.
- Programmed Python scripts to automate processes such as web scraping, improving efficiency by up to 90%.
- Investigating surveillance pricing and building infrastructure for transparent AI risk evaluation and disclosure.

Northeastern University   **Aug 2024 - Apr 2025**
Teaching Assistant, Content Team Lead   *Boston, MA*
- Optimized Racket-based autograder for CS2500, enhancing grading efficiency.
- Collaborated with professor to develop assignments for 500+ students, ensuring alignment with course objectives.
- Conducted lab sessions and office hours, providing technical guidance in Racket programming.

Fidelity Investments   **Jun 2024 - Aug 2024**
Cybersecurity Intern   *Boston, MA*
- Mapped technologies for Zero Trust Architecture initiative, improving security alignment with ZTA principles.
- Created technical documentation and ML security code using Python libraries including IsolationForest.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Zhu, E.**, Coombes, C., Teja, S., & Patterson, D. (2025). *FEEDBOT: Formative Design Feedback on Programming Assignments*. In Proceedings of the 30th ACM Conference on Innovation and Technology in Computer Science Education, 1, 576–582. https://doi.org/10.1145/3724363.3729063
- Khezresmaeilzadeh, T., **Zhu, E.**, Grieco, K., Dubois, D. J., Psounis, K., & Choffnes, D. (2025). *Echoes of Privacy: Uncovering the Profiling Practices of Voice Assistants*. Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium, 2, 71–87. https://doi.org/10.56553/popets-2025-0050

PROJECTS

BGP Router   **October 2024**
Developer
- Developed a Python-based BGP router supporting IPv4 and JSON-formatted communications for route updates and data forwarding.
- Implemented advanced routing algorithms with longest prefix matching and a five-tiered decision process to ensure optimal route selection.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, C, SQL, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Racket, Kotlin, Bash, Swift, Pyret

Skills and tools: Wireshark, Ghidra, Burp Suite, Selenium, Linux, penetration testing, reverse engineering, prompt engineering