

# Nicolas Ryan Stephens

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## EDUCATION

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### Old Dominion University

Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity | GPA: 4.0 | Expected May 2028

Norfolk, VA

2025 – 2028

### Paul D. Camp Community College

Dual Enrollment & Advanced Placement Courses

Franklin, VA

2023 – 2025

### Windsor High School

Windsor, VA

2021 – 2025

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming:** Python (Intermediate), Bash (Basic)

**Operating Systems:** Windows 10/11, Kali Linux with i3 Tile Manager, Ubuntu Server, Metasploitable 2, Ubuntu Desktop

**Security Tools:** Wazuh (XDR/SIEM), Nmap, Wireshark, Burp Suite, Ophcrack, CyberChef, Binwalk, Nikto, Exiftool

**Networking:** TCP/IP, Subnetting, Cat6a Ethernet, Unmanaged Switching, VirtualBox Networking

**Virtualization:** VirtualBox – Kali Linux, Ubuntu Server, Metasploitable 2, Windows 10 VMs

**CTF Skills:** Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), Log Analysis, Digital Forensics, Scanning & Reconnaissance, Web Exploitation

## CYBERSECURITY PROJECTS & HOME LAB

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### Personal Cybersecurity Home Lab

2025 – Present

Self-funded and self-directed home lab built to explore real-world cybersecurity concepts across system administration, networking, and offensive/defensive operations. Documented at: [github.com/nstephens1106-alt/Home\\_Lab](https://github.com/nstephens1106-alt/Home_Lab)

- Configured a multi-device network with a TP-Link 2.5 Gig switch and Cat6a cabling connecting a Windows 10 desktop (Ryzen 5 2600x, RTX 1060, 16GB DDR4) and an ASUS ROG Strix G17 (upgraded to 32GB DDR5)
- Deployed and managed four virtual machines in VirtualBox: Kali Linux, Ubuntu Server, Metasploitable 2, and Windows 10
- Integrated Wazuh open-source XDR/SIEM with agents running on Kali Linux VM, Windows 10 VM, and a Chromebook (Velvet-OS) for centralized log monitoring and threat detection
- Utilized Metasploitable 2 as a vulnerable target environment to practice enumeration and exploitation in a controlled setting
- Prepared structured NCL prep notes covering multiple challenge categories documented in the repository

### Server-Side Fitness Application

November 2025

Final Project – CYSE 250: Basic Cybersecurity Programming and Networking | [Available on GitHub](#)

- Developed a secure Python-based client-server networking application allowing users to build personalized workout programs
- Implemented hashing, encryption/decryption, multi-threading, socket programming, and account creation with authentication

## CTF & COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE

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### National Cyber League (NCL) – Team Game

Spring 2026

ODU NCL Team Member | Cybersecurity Student Association (CS2A)

- Placed 73rd out of 342 teams in the NCL 2026 Team Game – Experienced Students Division as a member of ODU's team
- Competed across multiple challenge domains including OSINT, cryptography, log analysis, password cracking, web exploitation, and digital forensics

### National Cyber League (NCL) – Individual Game

Spring 2025

ODU NCL Team Member | Cybersecurity Student Association (CS2A)

- Ranked 1,233 out of 6,972 competitors nationally in only my 2nd ever competitive CTF event
- Demonstrated proficiency across NCL challenge categories including OSINT, cryptography, log analysis, password cracking, and web application exploitation

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Handshake AI

Remote (Part-Time)

AI Trainer / Fellow

December 2025 – Present

- Ethically and responsibly train AI models, gaining practical knowledge in data pre-processing, prompt engineering, and evaluating model weaknesses
- Developed skills in effective AI prompt creation and understanding the importance of reliable training data

## EXTRACURRICULARS & MEMBERSHIPS

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### ODU Cybersecurity Student Association (CS2A)

2025 – Present

Member & NCL Competitor

Active member of ODU's Cybersecurity Student Association; competing as part of the club's NCL team in both individual and team events.

### Armed Forces Communication & Electronics Association (AFCEA) – ODU Chapter

2025 – Present

Member

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### Windsor High School Varsity Wrestling

Windsor, VA

Team Captain

November 2024 – February 2025

- Led a 25+ member wrestling program to the most team wins in program history

### Windsor High School Varsity Track & Field

Windsor, VA

Team Captain

March 2025 – June 2025

- Led 50+ athletes in team stretches and warmups; coached field athletes in discus and shot put with personalized weight room programming

### Windsor High School Powerlifting Club

Windsor, VA

President & Founder

March 2024 – June 2025

- Founded an inclusive club for high school students to grow physically and mentally while competing at local competitions
- Coached members on competition and accessory lifts with proper form and guided personalized diet and training programming