

Nikhil Dhanda

Graduate Student

0211002741 | nikhildhanda@gmail.com | Auckland | <https://nikhildhanda.github.io/>

OVERVIEW

Computer Science Student with a curiosity for cybersecurity, AI and emerging technologies. I enjoy building things, experimenting with new tools and turning my ideas into practical projects. I'm always keen to learn, explore unfamiliar technologies and take on interesting problems.

SKILLS

- **Confluence and Jira:** Utilized for multiple group projects while at Unitec, both for software testing and my final capstone project.
- **Github:** Used for my final capstone project and personal projects.
- **Malware Analysis** Conducted static and dynamic malware analysis for a report on the Santa Stealer Infostealer using tools such as Dependencies, RegShot, InetSim, PeiD, Process Explorer and Process Monitor.
- **Splunk & Microsoft Defender:** Utilized both at Spark during my internship and as part of my home lab.

PROJECTS

- **Auto Kanji Breakdown:** A free and opensource Anki add-on that I created to solve a personal problem while learning Japanese, breaks down Japanese characters into smaller components to aid memorization.
- **VN Playground:** Exploring how generative AI technologies can be combined to weave a new interactive story telling medium. Incorporates agentic workflows using LLMs and image generation models to create a seamless turn by turn story that can be driven by the user.
- **DriVR (Capstone):** A VR driving simulation game built in Unity intended to be an educational tool for new drivers. My primary role was to implement additional steering wheel and VR headset support and testing.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cybersecurity Intern | Spark, Auckland

AUG 2024 – JUN 2025

- Completed a year-long work work-integrated program in cybersecurity delivered through weekly workshops, guided exercises and simulated investigations led by Spark cybersecurity professionals.
- Hands on experience with Splunk and Microsoft Defender using simulated data.
- Things that I learned include phishing email analysis, OSINT, and how to handle live tickets and produce investigation documents by shadowing cybersecurity analysts.

Customer Response Representative (Temporary Job) | Auckland Council, Auckland

NOV 2019 – FEB 2020

- Logging jobs for contractors regarding rubbish bin collections, illegal dumping, and maintenance requests.
- Responding to customer queries regarding their rates and waste issues.
- Setting up waste services for new properties.
- Sending out invoices for yearly rates.

Front of House | Maruten Ramen, Auckland

FEB 2022 – AUG 2022

- Serving food and beverages, invoicing and payments, general cleanup and table prep.
- Bilingual environment using English and Japanese.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATES

Bachelor of Computer Systems | Unitec, Auckland

JUL 2025 – NOV 2026

New Zealand Diploma in Cybersecurity | Unitec, Auckland

Graduated: 2025

Outdoor Leadership Diploma | NOLS, Wyoming, USA

FEB 2018 – March 2018

JLPT N2 (Japanese Language Proficiency Test)

SEP 2026