

# Chris Kirkpatrick

IT Support Specialist | Cybersecurity Enthusiast

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Self-taught IT professional with hands-on experience across Windows and Linux environments, virtual machine deployment, and network configuration. Holds CompTIA Security+ certification and actively develops technical skills through home lab projects, penetration testing tools, and real-world application development. Eager to leverage a strong security mindset and troubleshooting background in an entry-level Help Desk or IT Support role.

## CERTIFICATIONS

✓ **CompTIA Security+** — CompTIA Status: **Active**

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Operating Systems** Windows 10/11, Kali Linux, Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora

**Virtualization** VirtualBox — multi-VM lab environments, snapshots, NAT/bridged networking

**Networking** TCP/IP, SSH configuration, DNS basics, VPN concepts, firewall fundamentals

**Security Tools** Nmap, Wireshark, Metasploit (lab), Burp Suite (lab), Netcat

**Scripting & Dev** Bash, Python (basic), HTML/CSS/JavaScript, Git & GitHub

**Help Desk Skills** Troubleshooting, ticketing concepts, remote support, hardware/software diagnosis

## TECHNICAL PROJECTS

### FSBO Finder — Real Estate Research Tool

2024 – Present

*Personal Project* | [github.com/blacklightprotocol](https://github.com/blacklightprotocol) | *HTML / JavaScript / Anthropic API*

- ▶ Built a dual-tab web application to research For Sale By Owner and probate property listings across Northeast Ohio, automating data gathering that previously required manual searches.
- ▶ Integrated the Anthropic Claude API for intelligent data analysis; handled API key management, rate limiting, and error handling in a self-contained single-file HTML application.
- ▶ Demonstrates end-to-end problem solving: requirements gathering, UI design, API integration, and iterative debugging without formal training.

### Penetration Testing Home Lab

Ongoing

*Self-Directed Security Research* | *VirtualBox / Kali Linux*

- ▶ Configured isolated multi-VM lab environments on VirtualBox running Kali Linux and vulnerable target machines (e.g., Metasploitable).
- ▶ Practiced reconnaissance, vulnerability scanning, and exploitation using Nmap, Wireshark, and Metasploit in a controlled setting.
- ▶ Applied Security+ concepts hands-on: network sniffing, port scanning, privilege escalation, and log analysis.

### Network & SSH Configuration Lab

Ongoing

*Self-Directed Infrastructure Practice* | *Linux (Kali / Debian / Fedora)*

- ▶ Configured SSH key-based authentication across multiple Linux distributions and GitHub for secure remote access.
- ▶ Set up and troubleshot Node.js, npm, and developer tooling environments from scratch on Kali Linux and Debian.
- ▶ Gained practical experience with OpenSSH, display managers, and package management (apt, dnf).

### AI-Powered Web Application Development

2024 – Present

*Personal Project | Anthropic API / HTML / JavaScript*

- ▶ Developed functional web applications integrating the Anthropic Claude API to automate data research workflows.
- ▶ Managed API keys, rate limiting, and error handling in production-ready single-file HTML applications.
- ▶ Demonstrates ability to rapidly learn and apply emerging technologies independently.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

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### High School Diploma Graduate

Brunswick High School | Brunswick, OH

### Cybersecurity Bootcamp Certificate of Completion

Case Western Reserve University | Cleveland, OH | Hands-on training in network security, ethical hacking, and defensive security practices

### CompTIA Security+ Certification Program

Completed

CompTIA | Industry-recognized security credential covering threats, cryptography, PKI, identity management, and risk

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- ▶ Active GitHub profile ([github.com/blacklightprotocol](https://github.com/blacklightprotocol)) with documented personal projects demonstrating initiative and self-directed learning.
- ▶ Comfortable working across Windows and multiple Linux distributions simultaneously in virtualized environments.
- ▶ Pursuing continued education in cybersecurity; familiar with CompTIA roadmap (A+, Network+, CySA+).
- ▶ Strong analytical and problem-solving mindset developed through self-directed IT research and home lab practice.