



**Office of the Washington State Auditor
Pat McCarthy**

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my distinct pleasure to formally recommend Michael McAlexander for a position within the Information Technology or Cybersecurity department within your organization. Michael was working for me as a Cybersecurity Intern at the Office of the Washington State Auditor (SAO) during the period of November 2022 through June 2023. During his internship, Michael took eagerly to the task of both understanding the cryptic Microsoft Windows Security Event Log data and providing the Information Security team a dashboard in Sentinel. He partnered with our internal organization's technology support team close a critical vulnerability on the CISA Known Exploited vulnerability list along with monitoring and communicating the Information Security Team's requirements regarding uploading workstation endpoint data to Sentinel and providing visibility into our largest attack surface.

Michael has improved SAO's overall Cybersecurity program and overall posture during his internship with us. He took training and learned the Kusto Query Language and developed several queries to escalate potentially actionable security issues at-a-glance using a visual dashboard for both the Information Security team and executive management.

Michael's eagerness to learn, dive in, teamwork mindset, friendly demeanor, can-do attitude, approach to problem solving, and easy-going personality are both a great fit for SAO and your organization. I have no doubt of Michael's capabilities as he learns and grows as a information technology and cybersecurity professional as an excellent employee of your organization.

Please feel free to contact me at shaun.marquardt@sao.wa.gov

Sincerely,



Shaun Marquardt, MCL, [CISSP](#)

Cybersecurity Architect | Office of the Washington State Auditor

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