

# Andy Kawa

Security Researcher

📍 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

📞 Telegram ID: [b14ckbo7](https://t.me/b14ckbo7)

✉ [andykawa@pm.me](mailto:andykawa@pm.me)

🌐 <https://andykawa.me>

## Summary

---

My name is Andy Kawa, I'm a Security Researcher based in Dar es Salaam, with 4 years of experience in Penetration Testing and Security Development. I dedicate most of my time in breaking codes, and finding bugs in application systems, exploit them, then securely fixing them.

Through responsible vulnerability disclosure, I worked together with **Mkito.com**, an **Online Music Streaming company** to patch several vulnerabilities including a critical Persistent Cross Site Scripting vulnerability that could lead to Site Defacement. It is this never-give-up attitude combined with an innovative-mindset and integrity- and responsibility-based values I'm most excited to bring to the team. Other values are ...

## Work Experience

---

**Independent Security Researcher | Penetration Tester |** 2016 - Present

### Bug Bounty Hunter

Self

1. A player on [hackthebox.eu](https://hackthebox.eu) (a platform with 275,000+ registered hackers). As of writing:
  - I've completed 11 boxes and 27 challenges.
  - Leader in UDOM Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Research Lab's HTB Uni Page.
  - HTB Team leader @r0psec
2. Participating in Private HackerOne Vulnerability Disclosure Programmes
3. Pentesting Open Source applications

### Penetration Tester

8 months

Confidential

### Penetration Tester

2018 - 2019

The University of Dodoma

I worked at UDOM Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics Research Lab as the head of security development & penetration testing section, developing tools and methods that will aid in testing the security of web application systems, exploit and fix security flaws.

Through cutting-edge techniques, I discovered a Critical Unauthenticated Privilege Escalation vulnerability in the students' application portal.

### Website Developer

2015 - 2017

Freelance

I developed several online web solutions as a Freelancer.

It was also during this period that I began bug hunting, and discovered, reported and proposed a secure fix for severe vulnerabilities that affected at least three (3) major Telecommunication Companies' web applications including Zantel, Vodacom Tanzania and Tigo Tanzania.

## Education

---

**Computer Science Diploma**

2016 - 2018

The University of Dodoma

**High School**

2014 - 2016

Galanos Secondary

## Skills

---

HTML / CSS / JavaScript



HTML5 with Bootstrap Framework.

PHP / SQL



Laravel Framework, MySQL, PostgreSQL

Python / C / C++



Reversing Engineering



Security Exploit writing



Using either C++, Python, Bash/Shell Scripting.

Web Application  
Penetration  
Testing



Web application scanning and penetration testing. Designing and developing exploit tools. Excellent with Metasploit Framework, Burp Suite, NetSparker Vulnerability Scanner, Acunetix Vulnerability Scanner, OWASP-ZAP, SQLmap, SEToolkit, and so many other tools.

Networking Security



TCP/IP, ZenMap, TCPDUMP, Nmap, others. Packet Analysis using WireShark.

System  
Administration



LAMP Stack.

Report Writing



Writing report concerning discovered security vulnerability and recommendations.

## Accomplishments & Certifications

---

- *Completed Advanced Penetration Testing course*: Certificate provided by **Cybrary** (<https://app.cybrary.it/>)
- *Completed 11+ Vulnerable Machines & 27+ Challenges in Pen-testing Labs*: **HackTheBox** (<https://hackthebox.eu>)
- *3rd place winner*: **Cyber Stars of Tanzania - Catch The Flag Finals** organized by **Silensec & TCRA**.

## Portfolio

---

- **CarltonEltons**: A social web application blogging platform. (Laravel Framework)
- **HackerPoint**: Bug Hunting Platform. (also wrote on Laravel Framework)
- **HackerHubForums**: A forum I built for Security Geeks to learn and discuss info-security related stuffs.
- **Logs**: A blog where I share my experiences with the world at large.
- And others which are Open Source, find them in my GitHub: <https://github.com/bl4ckbo7>

## Hobbies

---

In my free time, you'd find me doing paper-pencil drawing, playing checkers, or listening to music or just watching a movie.

## Languages

---

Fluent in English & Swahili.

## Referees

---

1. Mr. Rais Ramadhani  
Lecturer  
College of Informatics and Virtual Education - The University of Dodoma  
P.O Box 490  
+255-713-341-845
2. Prof. Leonard Mselle  
Principal  
College of Informatics and Virtual Education - The University of Dodoma  
P.O Box 490  
+255-757-035-779