

CYBERSECURITY / APPLICATION SECURITY

LEMBOU PHAREL

Application Security Engineer | Security Researcher | DevSecOps

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Application-security researcher with a backend and infrastructure engineering foundation. Investigates web/API access controls, authentication, sensitive-data exposure and cryptographic systems, combining source review with local validation and responsible disclosure.

SECURITY RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Independent Security Researcher

HackerOne & HackenProof | 2026 – Present

- Conduct authorized research on in-scope applications, APIs, infrastructure and open-source systems.
- Map attack surfaces and test authentication, object-level authorization, JWT, CORS and session behavior.
- Trace security-sensitive code paths; build local reproductions and assess practical impact.
- Document evidence, submit responsible disclosures and communicate with program triage teams.

SELECTED APPLICATION RESEARCH

Unauthenticated production telemetry

Medium severity | Accepted / rewarded | $150

Identified a public monitoring interface exposing internal API routes, service information and aggregate transaction telemetry. Demonstrated its value for infrastructure enumeration and sensitive-information discovery.

Object-level authorization / IDOR

Medium severity | Duplicate

Showed that a low-privileged user could retrieve another user's internal profile information by changing an object identifier, crossing intended organizational-data access boundaries.

RESEARCH HIGHLIGHTS

#1 in Cameroon

HackerOne Q3 2026 country leaderboard, web-application category.

7+

Real-world-impact vulnerabilities reported through HackerOne.

82 points

HackenProof reputation; six security findings/reports.

SECURITY TOOLKIT

Web & API

Burp Suite, HTTP tooling, curl, IDOR / BOLA, JWT, CORS, access-control testing

Code & validation

Semgrep, Slither, Git, source review, Python / Bash, custom proof-of-concept scripts

Infrastructure

Nmap, Linux CLI, Docker, DNS / service discovery, origin and reverse-proxy analysis

RESEARCH & CODE

HackerOne / lembou

GitHub / lemboupharel

Medium / @pharellembou

Portfolio / pharel.dev

SYSTEMS & CRYPTOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

Remote signing oracle

High severity | Duplicate

Identified an unauthenticated signing interface in an open-source validator component. Traced caller-controlled data to the signing operation and locally verified signatures with the project's actual signing and verification code.

Focus: gRPC, authentication boundaries, consensus objects and cryptographic validation.

Blockchain bridge upgrade / storage-layout risk

Source-level assessment | Conditional risk

Compared implementation versions and storage slots to assess a conditional upgrade-safety risk. Used 19 proof-of-concept tests, Slither and Semgrep to support the analysis.

Focus: Solidity, proxy architecture, OpenZeppelin contracts and cross-version storage compatibility.

SECURITY ENGINEERING

MboaGuard

AI-native security assessment platform

- Designed and developed a platform for reconnaissance, web/API assessment and vulnerability investigation.
- Designed agent-based workflows for evidence collection, reporting and security knowledge management.
- Explores continuous assessment and remediation recommendations through AI-assisted analysis.

TECHNICAL PUBLICATION

How I Cracked Linux Chrome's Password Encryption

Medium | 2026

Investigated Linux Chromium password-storage behavior, keyring integration, PBKDF2 derivation and AES-GCM / legacy AES-CBC formats.

Implemented multi-format decryption in Python, recovering **26/26 locally stored passwords in the author's own test environment**.

Demonstrates Linux internals research, reverse engineering and cryptographic implementation.

ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

Programming & backend

Python, JavaScript, Node.js, Express.js, PHP, SQL, Bash, Solidity, REST APIs

Systems & deployment

Linux, TCP/IP, DNS, Nginx, Docker, VPS infrastructure, firewalling

Cloud architecture knowledge

AWS, IAM concepts, S3, EC2, RDS, CloudFront, WAF, CloudTrail, GuardDuty, Security Hub

FURTHER API RESEARCH

HackenProof | Research / reports

Investigated API-origin exposure, edge-control bypass and signed-request replay. Documented rate-limit and authentication-state behavior.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

AWS Cloud Security

Polytechnique Yaoundé
AWS / XyberClan | 2026

Presented how web/API vulnerabilities connect to server, container and cloud-identity risks.

Covered IAM, AWS data services, security monitoring, least privilege and defense in depth.

EDUCATION

University of Yaoundé I

Computer Science / Informatics
Undergraduate studies
Yaoundé, Cameroon

LANGUAGES

French / Native, fluent
English / Professional, fluent