

## Abdelaziz Alzarooni

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## Professional Summary

I am a passionate person who is an advocate to utilizing technology to enhance our life. I lead national initiatives for awareness and capability building in digital transformation and cybersecurity within the UAE to enhance digital wellbeing. Also, I represent UAE in several international organizations related to Digital Transformation, Cybersecurity, and Child Online Protection.

Committed to empowering people through science and technology, I worked on many successful projects and created a portfolio of awareness videos and podcasts.

## Work Experience

- **Team Leader Digital Awareness** at Telecommunications and Digital Government Regulatory Authority (TDRA), 2022 – present.  
Leading national awareness initiatives related to Digital Transformation for a better Digital Wellbeing in the UAE.
  - Driving national initiatives to increase awareness of best practices for digital transformation on the organizations level
  - Improving digital literacy through initiatives that equip citizens with the methods and tools that allow them to benefit from the digital world to enhance their digital wellbeing
  - Managing knowledge of the digital government and leading its official portal
  - Representing UAE in regional and international organizations around digital transformation and child online protection, such as ITU, Arab League, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), among others
- **Team Leader Cybersecurity Capacity & Business Development** at aeCERT, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), 2019 – 2022.

Leading a team of Cybersecurity enthusiasts in creating a cybersecurity culture and empowering world-class Cybersecurity professionals in the UAE.

- Managing the National Cybersecurity Capability Building Program; planning and executing its initiatives.
- Driving national initiatives and activities to create a safer digital culture.
- Representing UAE in ITU, OIC-CERT, Arab League, ARCC, GCC-CERT, in matters related to cybersecurity and child online protection.
- **Program Coordinator**, at the International Telecommunication Union, a UN agency, February to May 2019
  - Worked on projects that support digital transformation and cybersecurity practices
- **Information Security Engineer** at aeCERT, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (TRA), 2016 – 2019.
  - Established and managed the information security Management System (ISMS) in aeCERT and helped later in establishing it in TRA.
  - Presented around 100 cybersecurity awareness sessions & workshops for employees, parents, youth, and children.
  - Created a chatbot for information security awareness using machine learning.
  - Led 5 successful information security awareness campaigns.
  - Created over 40 cybersecurity educational videos for the public.
  - Designed and developed a website for cybersecurity awareness.

## Related Experience

- **Chairman of the Council Working Group on Child Online Protection**, at the International Telecommunication Union, a UN agency, 2019 – present.
  - Working with Child Online Protection experts from around the world to exchange experiences and best practices, and to address international challenges related to children using technology and suggest solutions to them
- **Vice Chairman of ITU-D Study Group 2**, at the International Telecommunication Union, a UN agency, 2019 – present.

- Representing the Arab region in the study group that discusses ICT services and applications for the promotion of sustainable development, including strengthening countries in the fields of cybersecurity and smart cities.
- **Board member of OIC-CERT, 2017 – 2021**
  - Representing UAE at the Computer Emergency Response Team for Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
  - Leading the Cybersecurity awareness pillar, creating initiatives and guidelines that help member countries raising awareness on the safe use of technology.
- **Industry Advisory Committee Member, at Abu Dhabi Polytechnic, 2021 – present.**
  - Reviewing new academic programs and advising on the latest trends in the industry to equip students with the needed skills to be prepared for them
- **Industry Advisory Committee Member, at the UAE Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT), 2019 – present.**
  - Advising HCT on building programs and curriculums that equip students with the skills needed to excel at their work in the field of ICT.
- **Member of the Executive Team for Security Indicators, at the Executive Teams of UAE 2021 National Agenda, 2017 – 2021**
- **Freelance Web Developer, 2005 – 2013**  
Developed over 70 web applications and responsive themes
  - Web applications (using PHP, JSP, JavaScript, and MySQL)
  - Responsive web designs for WordPress and vBulletin (HTML, CSS, and jQuery)

## Education

- **International ICT Leaders Program** from the International Telecommunication Union, February to May 2019.
  - An extensive hands-on program aiming at equipping the participants with necessary expertise for representing a country in inter-governmental organizations and contribute to international efforts related to developing

policies and programs in ICT by addressing the challenges and suggesting effective solutions.

- **Cyber Skills Program** from Abu Dhabi Polytechnic institute, May to August 2018.
  - A three-month bootcamp-style program that focuses on cyber-related topics, including cybersecurity, programming, networking, and IT.
- **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science** from the American University of Sharjah, January 2016.
  - Relevant courses: Computer Security, Mobile App Development, Database Systems, Internet & Network Computing, Software Engineering, Software Testing, Operating Systems, Data Structures.
  - Won the best graduation project in the College of Computer Science & Engineering.
  - Ranked the 3rd place in the UAE Best m-Government Service Award - Universities Category.

## Certificates

- “Certificate in Digital Transformation”, LSBF, 2021
- “ITIL v4”, AXELOS, 2020
- “Security+”, CompTIA, 2018.
- “ISO 27001:2013 Lead Implementer”, BSI, 2017.
- “ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor”, SGS, 2016.

## Training

- “Transitioning from Manager to Leader”, LinkedIn Learning, April 2020.
- “Leadership Presentation Skills for Influencers”, Coach Kardan, September 2018.
- “The Six Thinking Hats”, De Bono Thinking Systems, September 2017.
- “Emotional Intelligence”, bizGroup, September 2017.
- “Preparation for Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification”, Meirc, March 2017.

- “Creativity and Innovation”, HNI, December 2016.
- “Positive Competition”, Success Skills Development and Consultants, November 2016.
- “How to Build, Maintain and Measure a High-Impact Awareness Program”, SANS Institute, August 2016.
- “ISO 9004:2009 Awareness”, UAE Academy, April 2016.
- “Public Speaking and Presentation Skills”, Acmecons, April 2016.

## Projects

- Prepared and broadcasted 56 episodes of “Secure your information”, a daily radio program that sheds light on the risks related to using technology and how to deal with them to protect one's data and privacy.
- Prepared and broadcasted 220 episodes of “Technologies for you”, a daily radio program that introduces the audience to new gadgets, tools, and technologies that help them improve their daily life and encourages them to be part of the future technologies while providing them with ways for achieving that.
- Created “Alkawn”, the first Arabic YouTube channel that explains the fundamentals of Astronomy in a simple way.
  - Led a team of 4 volunteers to create 52 episodes.
  - The channel got around 10 million views and 80,000 subscribers.
  - Over 1500 scientific information was published through Al Kawn social media accounts.
- Created around 200 educational videos on technologies that could enrich one’s daily life and enhance it.

## Computer Skills

- Programming Languages: Java, C++, C, Python, PHP, JavaScript, Shell Programming.
- Android Development: using Java.
- Web Designing: HTML5, CSS3, XML, Adobe Photoshop.

- Operating Systems: Windows, Mac, GNU/Linux.

## Interests

- Jogging
- Reading in Science and Technology

## Languages

- Arabic (fluent)
- English (fluent)