

Alin Mechenici

Founder · CHENIST Cybersecurity — Cybersecurity, DevOps & Digitisation

Gothenburg, Västra Götaland County, Sweden

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PROFILE

Entrepreneur and cybersecurity practitioner who loves building secure platforms, strong teams and healthy cultures. 13+ years combining PR/CSR, IT, cybersecurity and project management. Bootstrapped 2 NGOs and 3 companies across two countries.

LANGUAGES

Romanian

Native or bilingual

English

Professional working

Swedish

Limited working

CYBERSECURITY

OS hardening · Air-gap networking · OpenBSD/FreeBSD · IAM · DLP · Privacy & anonymity · Security-by-design · Cyber hygiene & awareness training

DEVOPS & CLOUD

Ansible · WireGuard · PfSense · TrueNAS · NixOS · Debian/RHEL · Linux security & hardening · Distributed architectures · Cloud management

SOFTWARE

Python automation · Front-end development · Open-source platforms · Neo4j / graph databases · Data visualisation · Emacs / Org-mode

LEADERSHIP

Bootstrapping · Team & culture building · Train the Trainers · Strategic PR planning · Project management · Community building

EDUCATION

SNSPA

Political & Administrative Studies

2005 — 2009 · Bucharest, RO

SELECTED COURSES

Linux Security & Hardening · Debian Hardening · RHEL · OpenBSD · NixOS · FreeBSD · PfSense · WireGuard · TrueNAS ·

EXPERIENCE

Founder · CHENIST Cybersecurity

Sep 2019 — Present · Europe

Helping digital businesses become resilient — covering prevention, detection, response and recovery for business continuity. Delivers infrastructure solutions, distributed architectures, cloud management and end-to-end cybersecurity processes from design and implementation through training and hands-on setup. Three divisions: **Academy & Club** (training, talent, open-source), **Digital** (software & infrastructure), **Cybersecurity** (architecture, hardening, IAM, DLP, cyber-hygiene).

Founder · Highway to Business

Jan 2013 — Sep 2019 · Linköping, Sweden

Helped Scandinavian SMEs with bespoke digital solutions: IT consultancy, data protection, project management, training and technical support. Organised four editions of the NASA Space Apps Challenge and co-hosted a podcast with friends and clients from Mjärdevi Science Park.

Founder · PR Patrat Digital Solutions

Apr 2007 — Mar 2013 · Romania

Founded a digital services company whose main cloud products were an event-management system and an online learning platform, serving the medical and education sectors plus corporations, SMEs and NGOs. Coordinated a 20+ person technical team for Heineken Romania, mentored 15 startups and trained hundreds of professionals across 20+ cities. Subject-matter expert in newspapers, TV and radio.

Trainer & Consultant · Dental Management

Jan 2010 — Dec 2012 · Romania

Marketing and management consulting for Romania's first dental-consulting firm, serving a portfolio of private clinics and dental-industry clients. In parallel (Aug — Dec 2011), co-founded **Teddy Care** in Pitești — the first paediatric dental company in the city — as Managing Partner.

Public Relations Officer · AIESEC

Sep 2004 — Dec 2006 · Romania

PR & media relations, project management, community building, design, video, photo and audio editing.

SELECTED PROJECTS & VOLUNTEERING

Lead Organiser — NASA Space Apps Challenge · NASA

2016 — 2026 · Linköping & Craiova

Lead organiser for 5 editions of the NASA International Space Apps Challenge — 48-hour global hackathon producing open-source solutions for life on Earth and in space.

Founder & President 2012 · JCI Craiova (Junior Chamber International)

Mar 2011 — 2013 · Romania

Founded the JCI chapter in Craiova (15–20 active members) supporting economic empowerment through digitalisation. Organised business conferences, meetups and events including BNE and TEDx.

Ansible · Python automation · Neo4j · Data
Visualisation · DLP · Cyber Awareness ·
Strategic PR (Achelis & Partner) · Train the
Trainers (AIESEC + Dale Carnegie) · CSR
Academy (JCI) · Leadership Academy (JCI)

Author & Host — ON/OFF Newsletter & Podcast ·
Substack

Sep 2024 — Present

AI-free newsletter and podcast on business, cybersecurity, open-source and motorcycle culture. Weekly trainer at CHENIST Academy.