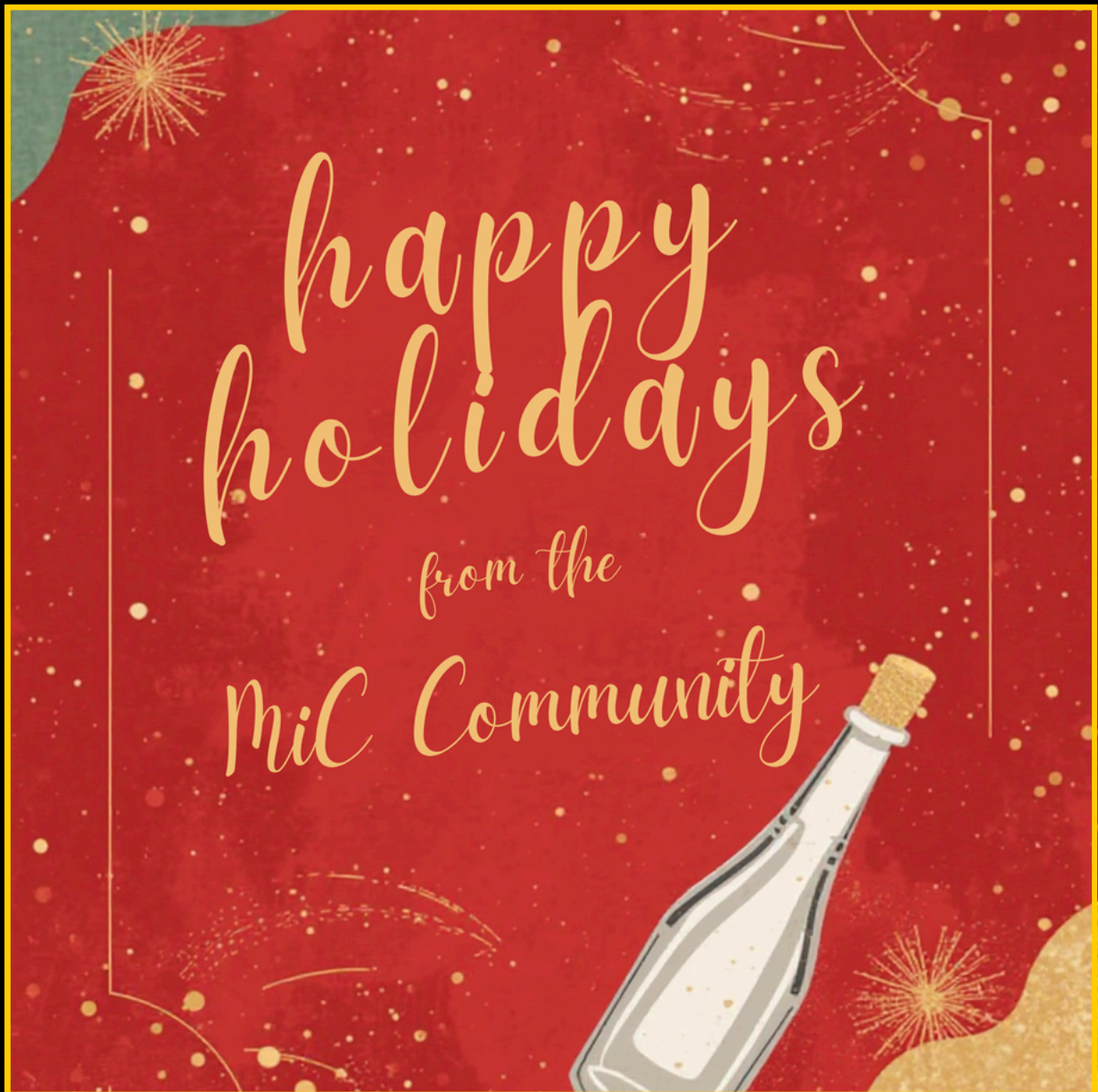




November 2025

MiC News

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE MiC COMMUNITY!





ENOJE "ENY" AWEVIA

Tell us about yourself.

My name is Enoje "Eny" Awevia. I am a cross functional professional whose journey bridges Risk, Education, Agile leadership, and innovation. I began my career as a Risk Analyst, later working in education, where I cultivated good communication and mentoring skills while creating meaningful impact in diverse communities. My passion for collaboration and continuous improvement led me into Agile leadership, and from there, I transitioned into cybersecurity, with a focus in Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC).

I am currently enrolled as a Cybersecurity Apprentice with Minorities in Cybersecurity (MiC) and I just completed the MiC LEAD Builders prog-

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT

-ram, where I strengthened my leadership, strategy, and professional growth skills. I also work as an IT Healthcare Consultant, supporting electronic medical record (EMR/EHR) implementations and empowering healthcare teams through technology.

Beyond Tech, I am an author, and co-founder of a self-publishing book startup that helps aspiring writers share their stories with the world. My mission is to inspire transformation, showing that with perseverance, purpose, and community, anyone can build a meaningful and impactful career in technology.

What initially sparked your interest in cybersecurity? Was there a specific moment or influence that led you to pursue an apprenticeship in this field?

I have always been drawn to problem-solving and protecting what matters. My background in risk analysis made me aware of how much organizations rely on data integrity and secure systems, and I wanted to be part of the team that keeps that safe. Over time, I realized cybersecurity isn't just technical, it's about trust, people, and smart decision-making. That combination of strategy, protection, and purpose is what pulled me in.



Why did you choose the MiC Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP)?

MiC stood out immediately because it wasn't just training it was about results. The RAP offered a pathway that combined education, hands-on experience, mentorship, and real support. Most programs teach you only skills and focus on certifications, but MiC teaches you all, skills, hands on experience, certifications, identity. They help you see yourself in the industry, even before you fully arrive. The structure, the mission, and the heart behind it made me choose MiC over every other entry pathway.

You recently graduated from MiC LEAD. What is your biggest advice for someone considering the course?

Go in with an open heart. MiC LEAD will challenge how you see yourself, how you communicate, and how you show up as a leader. The biggest advice I can give is: be willing to grow. Be willing to learn, speak up, engage, and let yourself be stretched. You'll walk out with clarity, confidence, and a community that wants you to Lead.

How important has the MiC community been in your journey?

The MiC community has been a blessing in my journey. Ms. Mary is an exceptional leader, very focused, result - oriented visionary, and genuinely committed to seeing each of succeed. Ralph has been a steady and uplifting presence, always supporting the entire cohort and making sure all our questions are ans-

-wered along the way. The instructors in the MiC LEAD Builders program are incredibly knowledgeable and intentional in how they teach, and the mentors consistently provide thoughtful guidance and motivation. Their collective support has been phenomenal. It makes me see the possibilities ahead of me and what I'm fully capable of achieving.

How do you feel the MiC community is changing diversity in the cybersecurity field?

MiC is creating the kind of access that many organizations talk about but rarely deliver. MiC is opening real pathways for people who have been marginalized or shut out of traditional tech routes, and they are doing it with intention. What makes MiC different is that they are not just diversifying the talent pipeline and developing leaders who understand why representation matters. MiC is building a community rooted in inclusion, equity, and opportunity, and that approach is reshaping the cybersecurity talent space in a meaningful way.

Tip for the month?

Make cyber hygiene part of your daily routine, use a password manager, enable multi-factor authentication (MFA), and don't ignore update prompts. Small, consistent actions matter more than big one-time fixes.

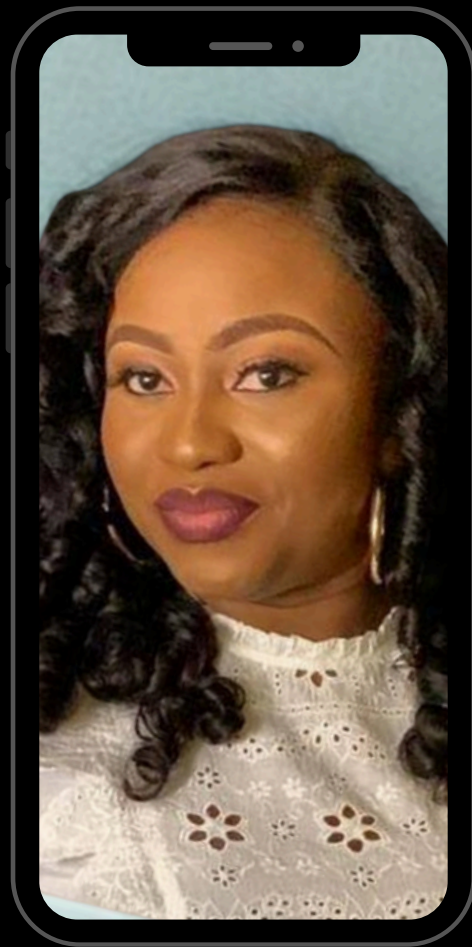
Security is a people problem, not a technology problem.

-Bruce Schneier



How Testing Taught Me to See Security Differently

by Patricia Emmanuel



It started with a bug. Not the kind that breaks a system, but the kind that births a revelation. I was leading tests on a healthcare application release when a small defect nearly disrupted patient records. We caught it in time, but the moment stayed with me.

I realized that quality is not just about whether something works, it's about whether it can be trusted. And trust, I've found, is the quiet currency of everything we build.

That was the day I stopped seeing testing as just a phase in the SDLC. It became my classroom for leadership, precision, and lessons that would later shape my world in cybersecurity.

Testing trained my eyes to notice what others looked past. It taught me curiosity with restraint, confidence with humility. It trained me to love details; not because I feared failure, but because I valued excellence.

Among other applications, I tested systems that touched real lives; payment systems, ophthalmology workflows, patient demographics, HL7 messages,

complex apis that had to align perfectly or everything else would collapse.

Those years weren't just about defects and reports. They were about people relying on clean data, patients depending on accuracy, organizations building credibility through reliability.



Looking back, I see it clearly now that testing was my first cybersecurity training ground. Every time I asked “What if this breaks?” I was really asking, “Where is this vulnerable and who might it impact?”

My transition into security didn’t happen overnight. It was more like an unfolding, a widening of vision. In testing, I verified functionality. In security, I now verify faithfulness. It’s the same attention to detail, but driven by a higher question. Can this be trusted when no one is watching?

When I began aligning testing strategies to NCSC CHECK and ISO 27001 frameworks, it felt like home. Risk prioritization reminded me of regression triage. Assurance reports mirrored defect dashboards. Remediation windows felt like retest cycles for vulnerabilities. I realized that both testing and security share the same DNA. Both are built on curiosity, clarity and care. The difference is only in focus; testing assures performance; security assures protection.

Every tester knows how to prove things work. Security analysts know how to trust but verify. I carry both lenses of the testing discipline and the security expression

Testing Discipline	Security Expression
Asking “what if”	Threat modelling with empathy
Traceability	Evidence-based governance
User awareness	Human-centric risk design
Team communication	Building secure culture
Regression thinking	Continuous assurance

Testing taught me that success is never individual. Every fix is a collaboration. Every bug is an invitation to learn. And every system, no matter how complex, carries the heartbeat of its builders. That is why today, I lead assurance reviews not as checklists, but as conversations. Because security is not control, it’s care in its most technical form.

I’ve often been the only woman, and sometimes the only Black woman, in a technical room. Early on, that felt like a weight. After attending the Mic Builders and Communicators course; now, I know it was a gift.

When you’ve learned to navigate rooms that weren’t built with you in mind, you develop unique radar, emotional intelligence, discernment, and grace under pressure. You learn to read the culture as carefully as you read the code.

“Being different doesn’t disqualify you , it diversifies your sightline.”



That awareness has helped me detect gaps others overlook not just in systems, but in teams, governance, and mindset. Representation isn't just about being seen. It's about what your presence allows others to see.

Now, through communities like Bluesky Citadel and Minorities in Cyber Security, I help others find that same voice. Over time, I've learned that the greatest vulnerabilities don't always live in code, they live in culture. You can have a perfect framework and still have a fractured team. Policies can't protect what people don't believe in.

That's why I approach assurance like alignment. I bring testers, developers, and security analysts together, not to tick boxes, but to build trust. Because when people understand why they're protecting something, excellence becomes natural.

"Compliance checks the box. Culture keeps the box secure."

And that, I believe, is where leadership begins, not in control, but in conviction.

To every reader across borders, sectors, and time zones: I bring with me the discipline of testing, the mindset of assurance, and the humanity of mentorship.

- I understand systems, but I also understand people.
- I value frameworks, but I also value faithfulness to purpose.
- I bridge communication between developers, testers, and security analysts so that protection becomes part of the product, not an afterthought.

I don't just analyse risk, I cultivate resilience. Because in a world where cyber threats evolve daily, resilience is the real metric of readiness.

Security is no longer a department. It's a mindset of stewardship, the daily choice to protect what has been entrusted to you. And testing was where I first learned stewardship.

Today, whether I'm leading assurance across Boards, teaching SOC analysts at Bluesky Citadel, or guiding interns through vulnerability discovery, my principle remains the same:

"Excellence is protection. Integrity is security."

To every tester considering cybersecurity — your skills are already divine training in disguise. You don't just break things; you reveal what needs grace, structure, and strength.

And to every employer seeking global talent, look for those who see beyond the bugs. Because the ones who once protected quality will now protect your trust.



MiC Announcements

Family Feud

Get ready to battle it out for bragging rights!



Shooting Range

Ready, aim, network!



Bowling

Knock over some pins and your networking goals!



Talent Show

It's time to show off your skills beyond the office!



Top Golf

Swing on by for some friendly competition!



Fun Run

Lace up your sneakers and get ready to go!



COMING SOON:
A NEW WAY OF
TRAINING
CYBERSECURITY TALENT



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