

Heriberto A. Acosta-Maestre

Seasoned Project Manager and Researcher with 20 years of experience, adept in IT Project and Program Management within research settings. With a solid foundation in Information Systems (Ph.D.), Computer Science (Master's), and Computer Engineering (Bachelor's), I excel in integrating technical knowledge with research innovation. Skilled in stakeholder collaboration, I ensure precise requirement definition and timely project delivery, ready to tackle new challenges in research-oriented environments.

Education / Certifications

Ph.D. in Information Systems, Nova Southeastern University,
Master of Computer Science in Knowledge Discover & Data Mining, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico
Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, Polytechnic University of Puerto Rico
CompTIA A+ Certification, CompTIA
CompTIA Security+ Certification, CompTIA
CompTIA Network+ Certification, CompTIA
Certified Ethical Hacker V8, EC-Council
Operations Security Program Manager (OPSEC Level III) Qualified, US Army

Professional Experience

William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (AKIMA, LLC) | Washington, D.C.
Cyber Fellow | December 2024 – Present

- Developed and facilitated real-world tabletop scenarios to enhance IT emergency response and collaboration between government, military, and private sectors.
- Authored papers focused on cybersecurity and hemispheric defense strategies.
- Provided academic support in course development, including the design, and delivery of lectures and materials.
- Evaluated and provided detailed feedback on student policy papers, focusing on cybersecurity topics and best practices.
- Delivered expert presentations on AI, quantum computing, and cybersecurity topics, including applications within the space sector and critical infrastructure, to diverse academic and professional audiences

Puerto Rico Army National Guard | Fort Buchanan/San Juan, PR
Program Administrator, Distributed Learning Program | October 2019 – December 2024

- Utilized project management skills to successfully oversee multiple technical projects for the PRNG/G6 CIO, including budget management, scope and schedule management, risk and opportunity management, and problem-solving to support force training and command and control requirements.
- Led a team of technical professionals in managing a network of 92 workstations and 180 laptops for over 10,000 users, providing technical mentorship and guidance as needed, resolving conflicts, and promoting collaboration and motivation towards common goals.
- Managed financial aspects of operations, budgeting, invoicing, and billing handling an average budget of \$300,000 servicing the 8,500 members of the Puerto Rico National Guard in addition to dependents and the civilian workforce.
- Improved site usage by 106% through process improvement efforts, including the implementation of new technical solutions.
- Played a key role in the planning, budgeting, and delivery of the Distributed Learning Program providing ongoing assessment of training and education ensuring the successful delivery of DL training to the force.
- Served as Program Information Assurance Security Officer, adhering strictly to CIS standards and processes within the CMMC 2.0 framework to maintain compliance in a security-focused environment.
- Led the development of technical security protocols and architectural design, prototyping, evaluation, and trade study analysis for enterprise security solutions within a zero-trust architecture.
- Collaborated with PRNG/G6 System Administrator and Cybersecurity personnel to create technical proposals, briefs, and presentations for State Government, NGB, and PRNG Executive Leadership.

Puerto Rico Army National Guard State Affairs Office | San Juan, PR

IT Project Manager | June 2019 – September 2019

- Gathered and defined clear requirements from stakeholders throughout the organization to ensure the successful delivery of all project goals and deliverables in a regulated and compliance-focused environment.
- Oversaw the processes surrounding the COR3 Disaster Recovery System and associated data on agency disaster expenses and reimbursement, including maintaining the FEMA Grants Portal and DRS.
- Communicated problems to agency leadership and project stakeholders and presented solutions.
- Acted as a disaster recovery subject matter expert, using process improvement expertise to identify deficiencies and recommend disaster mitigation strategies to minimize downtime and improve system continuity during disasters.

Puerto Rico Army National Guard | San Juan, PR

Site Administrator | July 2009 – April 2019

- Oversaw all administration and troubleshooting operations for a decentralized network covering 3 computer learning centers and over 200 combined desktops and laptops, balancing the needs of different stakeholders.
- Served as the lead subject matter expert on the program security infrastructure.
- Conducted constant assessments of the existing IT infrastructure and processes to identify opportunities for improvement, including adapting, integrating, or retiring services to enhance standards and reach the top 15 most used programs in the nation.
- Created statistical reports to analyze resource usage patterns and improve availability for cyclical or recurrent requirements.

Gregory Morris Engineering | San Juan, PR

Software Manager | June 2006 – June 2009

- Acted as Software Manager on a major public sector contract for the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA), valued at \$20 million, leading the island-wide Water Meter Customer Census program.
- Presented key information to senior leadership, enabling informed decision-making.
- Adopted agile principles to increase project speed and improve value delivery for the client.
- Owned the system design, integration, requirements, security analysis, and deployment of handheld devices for participation in the PRASA project application and supporting web applications for 60 field crews covering over 1.4 million total customers.
- Conducted risk exposure and software usability balance analysis to ensure developed software met standards.
- Acted as a disaster recovery subject matter expert, recommending disaster mitigation strategies to minimize downtime and improve system continuity during disasters for local and remote offices.
- Managed office network, database, cloud, software development, endpoint, and hardware technologies.

Core Competencies

Scientific Writing and Publishing, Experimental Design, Data Interpretation, R&D Project Management, Data Presentation, Research and Analysis, Systems Administration, Problem Solving, IT Infrastructure, Data Security, Disaster Recovery, Knowledge of Current Scientific Literature and Trends, Knowledge of Statistical Analysis Software, Ability to Translate Research Findings into Practical Applications

Leadership Positions

ACM International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining, IEEE Conferences