

## **NDA & Security Incidents on Your CV**

### **How to present confidential projects – without breaching confidentiality.**

Why “I’m not allowed to say anything about it” often weakens your strongest argument.

Many CVs in the cyber security field share the same pattern.

The projects are highly relevant.

The level of responsibility was significant.

The topics are current.

Yet too little relevant information is conveyed to the reader.

Why? Because everything is phrased too vaguely.

“Project in the banking sector”

“Security project for a large client”

“Handling of a security incident”

Formally correct. Substantively weak.

What does NDA really mean in a CV?

Many candidates think:

I am not allowed to say anything.

So they write:

As little as possible.

The problem:

A CV without substance does not create trust.

The reader does not understand:

What exactly was your role?

How complex was the situation?

What contribution did you make?

And that is exactly where part of your value is lost.

What you are actually not allowed to say. Clear boundaries matter:

No client names

No specific systems or architectures

No sensitive details about vulnerabilities

No information that could be misused

But:

That does not mean you cannot say anything.

It means:

You need to abstract it properly.

The most common mistake. Many candidates describe projects like this:

Example:

Security Consultant  
Project in the financial sector  
Conducting security assessments

This sounds clean.

But:

It is interchangeable.

The reader learns nothing about you.

How to create impact despite NDA

A strong CV does not describe the WHAT in detail, but instead:

Context  
Role  
Challenge  
Approach  
Outcome

Example:

Weak:

Security Consultant  
Project in the banking sector  
Conducting assessments

Strong:

Security Consultant  
Project in a regulated financial environment  
  
Conducting security assessments within a complex system landscape with high regulatory requirements  
  
Responsible for identifying critical vulnerabilities and prioritising remediation measures  
  
Outcome: Reduction of identified high-risk findings through structured remediation initiatives

The difference:

Before: Generic description

Now: Context + responsibility + impact

Security incidents on your CV

Many avoid this topic entirely.

Due to uncertainty.

Or fear of saying the wrong thing.

Yet these experiences are extremely valuable.

They show:

How you operate under pressure.

How you make decisions.

How you take responsibility.

The most common mistake

Example:

Handling of security incidents

This says nothing.

Anyone can write that.

How to do it properly

An incident is not the story. Your handling of it is the story.

Example:

Weak:

Supporting the handling of a security incident

Strong:

Active role in incident response during a critical security incident (ransomware)

Coordinated the analysis phase and aligned stakeholders across IT, security, and management

Prioritised measures for containment and system recovery

Outcome: Business operations restored within 48 hours

The reader recognises:

Pressure

Complexity

Responsibility

Outcome

That is what matters.

The three most common mistakes

1. NDA as an excuse  
“I’m not allowed to say anything about it”  
→ leads to empty CVs
2. Too technical  
Going too deep into tools and systems  
→ risk + difficult for many readers to understand
3. No focus on impact  
You describe tasks, but not outcomes

How to review your CV

Ask yourself:

Is my role understandable even without names or labels?

Is it clear which challenges I solved?

Is my contribution visible?

Am I showing outcomes or just activities?

If not:

Your CV lacks substance in the most critical areas.

NDA is not an obstacle. It is a quality filter.

Those who can present complex and confidential topics clearly and in an abstracted way demonstrate:

Structure

Reflection

and professionalism

And that is exactly what makes the difference.

This article is part of the cyberunity CV series for cyber security professionals in the DACH region.