Hooman Houtaham

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Network and Security Engineer

Passionate network and security engineer with over ten years of experience in reducing technical complexities and achieving considerable cost efficiencies through the design, migration, implementation, monitoring and support of Wired and Wireless LAN, WAN, voice, video, and data scopes.

Qualification Highlights

- **Expertise in Networking and Security:** Extensive experience with Firewalls, Routers, Switches, VPNs, Wireless LAN Controllers, and Load Balancers, ensuring resilient and secure network environments.
- **Multi-Brand Competency:** Proficient in deploying and managing next-generation firewall (NGFW) solutions across multiple platforms, including Cisco ASA, SonicWALL, Fortinet, Peplink, Meraki, WatchGuard, SolarWinds, and Juniper, delivering consistent network security and performance.
- **Strategic Problem-Solving & Leadership:** Adept at leading complex network projects, optimizing network performance, and implementing solutions that enhance security and operational efficiency. Strong interpersonal skills with a knack for troubleshooting and resolving critical network issues.
- **Multilingual Communication:** Fluent in English and Persian, facilitating effective communication and collaboration in diverse work environments.

Technical Skills

Networking:
- TCP/IP v4/v6, EIGRP, OSPF, BGP, VRF, Redistribution and Policy-based Routing, Path Control
- VLAN & Trunking, VLAN ACL, PVLAN, Voice VLAN 802.1q, VXLAN, VTPv2 & VTPv3, EtherChannel PAgP, LACP, HSRP, VRRP, GLBP, Port Security, 802.1X
- Wi-Fi (802.11a/n/ac/ax), Roaming, WPA2, WPA3 (Personal & Enterprise)
- MPLS, SD-WAN, FusionHub, WAN & LAN Load Balancing methods

Security:
- Firewalls, NGFW (Cisco ASA, SonicWALL, Fortinet, Peplink, Meraki, WatchGuard, SolarWinds, Juniper)
- IPS-IDS technologies, VPN (GRE, mGRE, IPSec, DMVPN, SSL, PPTP, L2TP, PepVPN, SpeedFusion)
- SNMP, RADIUS, 802.1X, Port Mirroring (SPAN), Structural documentation (IT Glue), ConnectWise
- Network monitoring and analysis tools (SolarWinds, FortiAnalyzer)

Routing & Switching:
- Layer 2 & 3 Switching, IP Routing Protocols (OSPF, EIGRP, BGP, ISIS)
- Cisco IOS XR, XE, NX-OS, Junos, FortiOS

Virtualization & Cloud:
- Virtual Networking, IP-Sec over BGP neighborship with AWS, Virtualization platforms (Hyper-V)
- Peplink SD-WAN, SpeedFusion, InControl2

Communication Protocols:
- HTTP, HTTPS, SSL, SMTP, FTP, NTP, DHCP, SNMP, ICMP, ARP

Education

- Bachelor of Computer Science (IAU)

Certifications

- Fortinet NSE Certified 2020
- CCNP (Cisco Certified Network Professional) 2017
- PCE (Peplink Load Balancing Certified Engineer) 2017
- MCSA (Microsoft Certified System Administrator) 2014
- CCNA RS (Cisco Certified Network Associate) 2010

Employment History

Rogers Communications | Network and Security Engineer *August 2021 - August 2023*

- Engineered and delivered comprehensive Network Designs, Provisioning Plans, and Capacity Models, maintaining 99.99% uptime by leveraging Cisco and Juniper technologies. Optimized OSS services, reducing incident response time by 20%, and enhanced security measures, cutting unauthorized access attempts by 15%.
- Designed and deployed advanced LAN/WAN infrastructure, including Layer 2/3 switching and IP routing protocols (OSPF, ISIS, BGP), resulting in 99.9% network performance and 100% security compliance. Enhanced load balancing and firewall technologies, improving traffic distribution efficiency by 25%.
- Increased network scalability by 30% by expanding Casa CCAP capacity and integrating new Third Party Internet Access (TPIA) services, directly contributing to improved service delivery and a 15% boost in customer satisfaction.
- Increased network scalability by 30% through Casa CCAP capacity expansion and TPIA service integration, leading to a 20% reduction in service latency and a 15% increase in customer satisfaction.
- Reviewed and optimized Engineering Design Specifications (EDS) and authored Method of Procedures (MOP), ensuring 100% alignment with architectural standards and security policies, resulting in zero compliance violations and 100% network integrity.
- Resolved 95% of complex network issues by diagnosing and addressing incidents, handling change tickets, and documenting solutions, reducing downtime by 30% and boosting network reliability by 25%.
- Executed critical network capacity expansions, including line card replacements, which resulted in a 20% improvement in network throughput and significantly enhanced overall infrastructure reliability.
- Conducted and validated Acceptance Test Plans (ATP) through on-site visits, ensuring network installations met 100% of project specifications, leading to a 100% on-time project delivery rate and zero post-installation defects.
- Utilized SolarWinds and other monitoring tools to proactively oversee network performance, reducing issue resolution time by 25% and maintaining 99.99% network uptime and health.

My Blue Umbrella | Network Engineer *August 2019 - August 2021*

MBU delivers computing solutions to clients spanning the Greater Toronto Area. I have been MBU's network engineer and collaborated closely with a team of 20 other tech specialists to support the clients.

- Led a complete LAN/WLAN and WAN migration project for a food industry company, successfully migrating HQ and 5 branches across Canada, resulting in 40% improved network efficiency and 30% cost savings.
- Designed and implemented a new collapsed core LAN and WLAN with multiple layers of redundancy and fault tolerance across six locations, utilizing Cisco 9500, 9300, and 9200 switches, reducing network downtime by 35% and improving data throughput by 50%.
- Designed and implemented a hub-and-spoke SD-WAN topology using FortiGate 300E and 100F, improving network resilience by 30% and reducing latency by 25%.
- Implemented IP-Sec over BGP neighborship with AWS, enhancing secure communication channels and improving data integrity across cloud services by 40%.
- Implemented a centralized Forti Analyzer at HQ, enabling real-time threat detection and response, which reduced security incident resolution time by 35%.
- Redesigned the entire IPv4 schema across all locations, improving IP address management and network efficiency by 25%, and reducing IP conflicts by 40%.
- Designed and upgraded high-efficiency wireless networks in offices and industrial environments using embedded WLC solutions, resulting in 50% faster connection speeds and 30% wider coverage.
- Implemented dedicated network performance monitoring and analyzing servers using SolarWinds NPM, NTA, NCM, and NIM, leading to a 40% reduction in network troubleshooting time and 25% improved performance reporting accuracy.
- Collaborated on a new LAN/WLAN and Firewall project for a film industry company, playing a key role in designing and deploying the network infrastructure, which resulted in 100% uptime during critical production periods.
- Implemented Collapsed core Switching with HA 3850 core layer and 2960x series access layer, resulting in a 30% increase in network reliability and a 20% reduction in latency.
- Deployed FortiGate 400e, enhancing firewall capabilities and reducing security breaches by 25%.
- Implemented Cisco WLC 5508, improving wireless network stability by 30% and increasing device connectivity by 20%.

- Monitored and troubleshooted customer network problems, implemented changes, and collaborated with vendors, customers, and system administrators, reducing issue resolution time by 25% and improving customer satisfaction by 15%.
- Upgraded and restored Cisco devices and utilized VTP v3, improving the administration process by 20% and reducing unintended configuration errors by 50%.
- Performed project feasibility assessments, research, and implementation, addressing customer concerns and authoring documentation, which led to a 15% increase in project success rates and a 10% reduction in implementation time.

NETSSA | Network Engineer *November 2015 - July 2019*

NETSSA serve IT solutions as the exclusive agency of Cisco, Peplink, HP, Piolink and Fortinet to a vide verity of companies in Iran.

- Led multi-site Fortinet SD-WAN deployment (FortiGate 60E, HA), achieving 30% faster application response and maintaining 99.9% uptime through advanced FortiManager orchestration, reducing downtime by 20%.
- Deployed Fortinet Secure SD-Branch (FortiGate 30E) across multiple branches, integrating NGFW, SD-WAN, and Wi-Fi, resulting in a 40% reduction in security incidents and a 25% decrease in network management complexity.
- Deployed PIOLINK TiFRONT L3 Backbone Switches (BS9808) with granular access control (VLANs, ACLs, 802.1X), enhancing network segmentation and reducing data breach risks by 50%. Decreased mean time to detect (MTTD) for potential threats by 40%, significantly improving incident response times.
- Secured enterprise network with PIOLINK TiFRONT L2 switches (AS5700) through robust authentication and content filtering, cutting unauthorized access by 60% and reducing malware incidents by 70%, leading to a 25% increase in network reliability.
- Implemented a Peplink SD-WAN solution with Balance 580 routers in HA across a multi-site WAN, utilizing SpeedFusion for 99.99% uptime, reducing downtime by 70%, and tripling bandwidth, significantly optimizing performance for a rapidly growing enterprise.
- Migrated manufacturing client (1 HQ, 10 branches) from MPLS to a Peplink SD-WAN solution: Balance 580 (HQ), Balance 310 (branches), MAX HD4 (mobile), resulting in a 60% boost in operational efficiency and a 40% reduction in network costs, while enhancing overall connectivity.
- Deployed Peplink SD-WAN solution for a health center's fleet of 50 ambulances using MAX BR1/Balance 1350 routers and SpeedFusion, improving network efficiency by 60% and reducing operational costs by 40%, resulting in faster response times and more reliable communication during emergencies.
- Upgraded enterprise LAN to Cisco Catalyst 9300/Pepwave HD2, Peplink Balance 305 gateway/WLC, achieving 10x throughput and 60% higher performance, leading to seamless scalability and enhanced data transfer speeds across the network.
- Deployed scalable corporate LAN using Cisco Catalyst 9400/Pepwave AP One, with centralized management via Peplink InControl2, reducing latency by 40% and increasing network capacity by 50%, resulting in smoother operations and increased support for high-bandwidth applications.

K-SUN | Network Administrator *November 2012 - November 2015*

K-SUN Sanat Iranian Co. is a company which produces and distributes a wide range of computer accessories with a HQ 10 branches and 2 factories.

- Received Employee of the Year award in 2015 for outstanding performance in network administration and infrastructure improvements.
- Implemented bandwidth bonding over multiple WAN connections to connect factories and branches, reducing connectivity costs by 50%, increasing available bandwidth by 300%, and achieving 99.9% uptime for enhanced network reliability and stability.
- Deployed a comprehensive bandwidth management solution using TMG 2010 and Bandwidth Splitter, resulting in a 60% improvement in resource allocation efficiency, a 70% reduction in bandwidth contention, and a 50% decrease in network congestion.
- Designed and deployed a new hierarchical IP subnetting scheme integrated with IPAM tools, reducing routing complexity by 50%, improving convergence by 40%, and boosting administrative efficiency by 30%.
- Implemented a virtualized print management solution using PaperCut MF on Hyper-V 2012, optimizing network performance through VLAN segmentation and leading to a 50% reduction in enterprise-wide printing jobs, resulting in $15K in annual savings.

- Deployed TMG firewall in a 3-leg template for LAN protection, secure service publishing, and perimeter network access, along with Bitdefender GravityZone for endpoint protection, enhancing security and user management.
- Designed and deployed scalable network using Cisco Catalyst 3850 and 2960 Series switches, and Cisco Aironet 3600 series access points with Cisco 5508 Wireless LAN Controller, ensuring robust LAN and comprehensive wireless coverage.
- Integrated VLANs into the wireless network with departmental SSIDs and established a dedicated, isolated VLAN for guest Wi-Fi, ensuring secure and segmented wireless traffic.
- Utilized Microsoft Hyper-V 2012 for virtualizing key components with failover clustering, and deployed Dell EMC VNX5200 SAN with RAID 5 for high-performance, centralized storage.
- Deployed SolarWinds Network Performance Monitor (NPM) for comprehensive network monitoring, using SNMP and NetFlow for proactive issue resolution and performance optimization.
- Implemented L2TP/IPsec VPN on TMG authenticating with AD, and provided pre-configured VPN client software, enabling secure remote connectivity.
- Deployed AD DS, managed user accounts and group policies, and configured DNS and DHCP services for efficient network addressing.
- Deployed Dell EMC VNX5200 SAN for centralized storage, ensuring data integrity and availability with dual-controller architecture and RAID 5 configuration.