Syed Saif Asif

Senior Level Assignments

Cyber Defense Services / Program & Project Management

✉ syedsaif.asif@gmail.com   📱 +971557557137

Profile Summary

Cybersecurity Leader with over **20 years of experience in Cybersecurity Strategy, Security Architecture, Incident Response, Managed Security Services (MSS), GRC, and Telecom Operations across the UAE and Australia**. Proven ability to lead cross-functional teams, deliver secure solutions, and drive service excellence aligned with regulatory and business objectives.

- Expertise in managing **end-to-end cybersecurity operations**, including **security awareness, risk assessments, pre-sales consulting, and vendor/stakeholder engagement**.
- Successfully **established and scaled MSS offerings**, including SOC, DDoS, EDR's, PAM, Vulnerability Management, Pen Testing, Threat Intelligence, and more.
- Consistently recognized for **high-performance service delivery and customer satisfaction over the last 7+ years.**
- Acted as **SME in enterprise security sales cycles**, and supported international events such as the **ITU and World Government Summit.**
- Strong leadership in **people management, project execution, and security governance** across complex enterprise environments.
- Adept at aligning security programs with **business goals and compliance mandates**, ensuring measurable risk reduction and resilience.
- Thrive in **fast-paced, evolving environments**, with a proactive approach to emerging threats and evolving technologies.

Certifications

- Certified Information Security Manager (CISM)
- Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)
- Qualys Guard Vulnerability Management Expert
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE)
- Air Watch Enterprise Mobility Expert

Skill Set

Service Delivery Management	Project & Program Management	Information Security Governance
Cyber & IT Network Security	Stakeholder Management	Team & Performance Management
Security Architecture Design	Escalation & Vendor Negotiation	Training & Development

👤 Career Timeline

2005 to 2006:
Holmesglen TAFE, VIC, Melbourne as Tutor & Participate Assistant

2006 to 2008:
Dodo, Melbourne, Australia as DSL & Business Support

2008 to 2012:
AAPT, Melbourne, Australia; Last designated as Technical Analyst

2012 to June 2018:
Wipro, Dubai as Consultant

2018 June
Emirates Integrated Telecommunication Dubai as Lead Managed Service Security
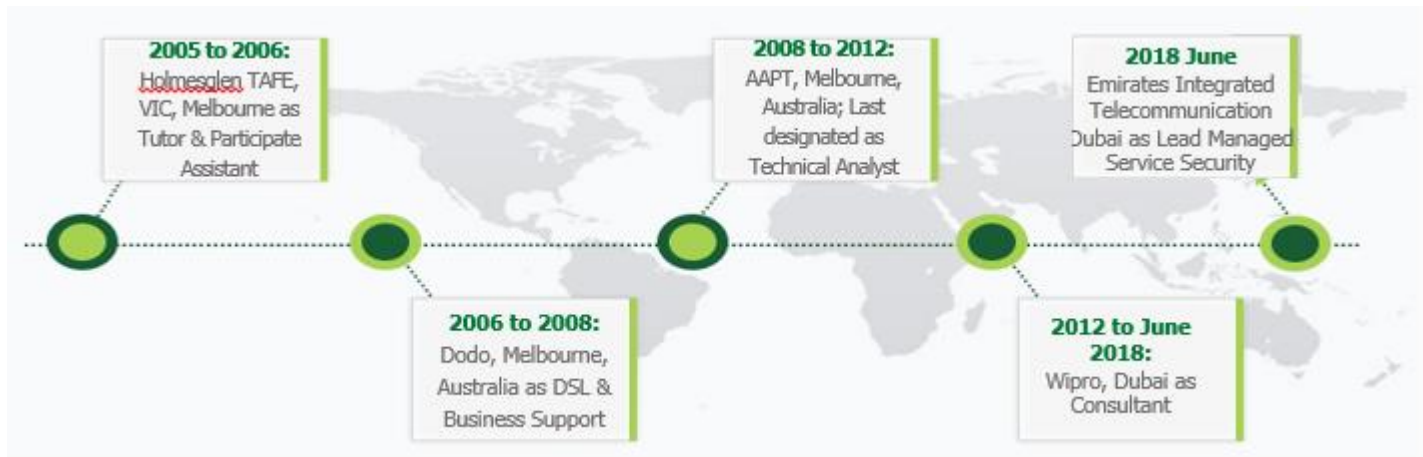
💼 Work Experience

Emirates Integrated Telecommunications (du), Dubai, UAE
Manager – Cyber Defense Services
September 2021 – Present

- Leading **five cybersecurity teams across SOC operations**, incident response, engineering, threat intelligence, and Managed Security Services.
- Defined and executed **SOC strategy**, aligning with enterprise security goals and regulatory frameworks (NESA, DESC, ISO 27001).
- Serving as **Security Incident Manager**, overseeing major incident handling and coordinating stakeholder responses.
- Managed security technologies including **QRadar, LogRhythm, PAM, VAPT, EDRs, DDoS Solutions, TIP** and evaluated **Splunk and MS Sentinel** for integration.
- Drove continuous **SLA compliance, process improvement, and threat response optimization**.
- Established and reported on **SOC KPIs/KRIs,** providing risk and performance insights to senior leadership.
- Coordinated with **vendors, internal units, and regulatory** bodies to maintain service excellence and compliance.
- Led coordination with cross-functional teams **(IT, Risk, Compliance)** and **external partners** to support end-to-end security initiatives.
- Presented **executive-level reporting** on threat landscape, incident trends, and overall cyber defense posture to senior stakeholders.
- Actively contributed to **strategic planning** for MSS portfolio enhancement and client-specific security service improvements.

Lead – Cyber Defense Services
June 2018 – August 2021

- **Managed MSS and SOC operations (2 teams),** ensuring 24/7 security monitoring and effective incident response.
- Delivered **SOC transformation consulting**, guiding architecture, implementation, and operationalization of security platforms.
- Led delivery of **MSS services**: SIEM (QRadar, LogRhythm), DDoS, VA/PT, WAF, phishing defense, secure hosting, PAM, and more.
- Executed cybersecurity projects in alignment with ISO 27001, engaging with enterprise clients, vendors, and government entities.
- Acted as the escalation point for L2/L3 incidents, supporting critical case resolution.
- Conducted **security awareness training** for both internal teams and customers.
- Supported **pre-sales activities**, proposals, and technical demonstrations to drive MSS adoption.

📁 Previous Work Experience

Since Mar'12 to June'18 with Wipro, Dubai, UAE
Senior Cyber Security Consultant

Role:
- Delivered **cybersecurity consulting and project execution** based on ISO 27001, managing project timelines, resources, and quality.
- Led **SIEM deployments** (LogRhythm, QRadar), including architecture design, implementation, and optimization for enterprise clients.
- Advised on **SOC build, operate, and transform models**, supporting clients through planning and operational enablement.
- Provided pre-sales support for **SOC/MSS solutions**, converting opportunities into successful client engagements.
- Delivered **MSS services:** DDoS protection, vulnerability management, policy compliance, WAF, secure hosting, and penetration testing.
- Directed **product onboarding** into the MSS portfolio, coordinating with vendors, partners, and government stakeholders.
- Managed a 24/7 MSS team, ensuring consistent operations and delivery.
- Presented **technical proposals and solution** overviews to clients, addressing their business and technical needs.

Mar'08 to Mar'12 with AAPT, Melbourne, Australia
Last designated as Technical Solutions Specialist

Growth Path:

Mar'08 to Dec'10	Telecom Network Support Engineer
Jan'11 to Mar'12	Technical Solutions Specialist

Highlight:
- Attained Superior Customer Experience Award couple of times in 2011

Jun'06 to Mar'08 with Dodo, Melbourne, Australia
Technical Support for IT Business Operations

Feb'05 to Feb'06 with Holmesglen TAFE, Melbourne, Australia
Information Technology Tutor & Participate Assistant

🖥️ Technical Skills
- **Security & Governance:** Security architecture design, ISO 27001, information security governance, policy compliance
- **Cyber Defense Tools:** DDoS mitigation (ATIC, Genie ATM, Huawei Eudemon), SIEM (LogRhythm, QRadar), WAF, PAM, load testing, source code review, compromise assessment, penetration testing
- **Vulnerability Management**: IT vulnerability scanning, web application scanning
- **Telecom & Networking:** DSL, Voice (EWSD, DMS), Fiber troubleshooting; Cisco routers (800, 1700, C10K), switches (2950, 3550, 3750), BPX 8620
- **Access & Transmission Systems:** Cisco 6260 DSLAM, Alcatel Lucent Stinger, Turnstone CX100, Hatteras HN400, CME, IN platforms, Nortel DMS100/CS2K, Siemens EWSD
- **NMS Tools**: Alcatel NAVIS, Nortel PSP
- **Migration Projects**: Experience in DSLAM migration (Cisco to Lucent & Cisco to Cisco)

🎓 Education
- Postgraduate Diploma in Telecommunication, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia – 2005
- Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia – 2004
- Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), Barkatullah University, Bhopal, India – 2002

Personal Details

Date of Birth:3rd September 1980
Contact Address: Academic City, Dubai
Languages Known: English, Hindi & Urdu