Avinash D

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Senior Network Engineer | Cloud Networking | Security | SD-WAN | Automation

Professional Summary

- Senior Network Engineer with 6+ years of experience designing, deploying, and managing large-scale enterprise and hybrid cloud networks across data centers, WAN, and cloud environments
- Supported **mission-critical applications** across financial, insurance, and telecom domains with a focus on reliability, automation, and compliance.
- Proven expertise in **Software-Defined Networking (SDN)** technologies including **Cisco SD-WAN (Viptela, Versa)** and **Cisco ACI**, improving scalability and reducing manual configuration by **40**%.
- Implemented **Cisco SD-Access with DNA Center** to automate endpoint segmentation and enhance campus network efficiency by **25**%.
- Managed enterprise security with Palo Alto (Panorama, GlobalProtect, WildFire), Fortinet (FortiManager/FortiAnalyzer), Cisco ASA, and Juniper SRX, reducing incident response time by 30%.
- Delivered **Zero Trust and SASE architectures** using **Zscaler ZIA/ZPA** for secure access across multi-cloud and remote environments.
- Hands-on experience with load balancing platforms including **F5 BIG-IP (LTM/GTM)**, **Citrix ADC (NetScaler)**, and **A10 ADC**, improving application availability and traffic resilience.
- Designed and implemented **SSL offload, QoS, and HA failover policies** to ensure optimal user experience and **99.99% uptime**.
- Built secure and scalable cloud networking architectures using VPC, TGW, Direct Connect, and ExpressRoute, integrating Aviatrix and Cisco ACI for multi-cloud connectivity.
- Developed Infrastructure as Code (IaC) using Terraform, Ansible, and Python (Netmiko, REST APIs) to automate firewall provisioning and WAN orchestration, cutting deployment time by 60%.
- Integrated automation into **GitLab CI/CD** and **Jenkins pipelines**, standardizing configurations and ensuring consistency across global environments.
- Delivered SDN and network transformation projects for enterprise clients such as **Liberty Mutual** and **Juniper Networks**.
- Strong foundation in **routing and switching**, configuring **OSPF**, **BGP**, **EIGRP**, **MPLS**, **and DMVPN/IPSec VPNs** for secure branch-to-cloud communication.
- Implemented DSCP tagging and SLA-based routing to guarantee application performance and traffic prioritization.
- Proficient in **Cisco ISE, Infoblox, BlueCat, SolarWinds, and Splunk** for identity-driven access, DNS/DHCP management, and real-time monitoring.
- Designed **policy-based access control** and **compliance dashboards** improving visibility, audit readiness, and governance.
- Wireless and mobility experience implementing **Aruba Wi-Fi 6, Cisco 9800 WLC**, and **Meraki** for secure, high-performance campus networks.
- Conducted **Ekahau site surveys, RF optimization**, and **posture-based onboarding** using **Cisco ISE** and **Aruba ClearPass**.
- Experienced in **multi-vendor integrations** (F5, FortiGate, Palo Alto, Zscaler) to build secure and scalable enterprise access solutions.
- Collaborated with **DevOps and security teams** to design **Zero Trust frameworks**, **cloud-native security**, and **network automation pipelines**.
- Recognized for delivering automated, secure, and scalable network solutions that improved uptime, reduced costs, and increased agility.
- Ensured alignment with **ISO 27001, SOX, GDPR, and NERC** compliance across all deployments and operational procedures.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Routing & Switching: Cisco ACI, Cisco Nexus, Catalyst 9000 Series, OSPF, BGP, EIGRP, MPLS, DMVPN, Cisco DNA Center. **SD-WAN:** Cisco SD-WAN (Viptela), Versa Networks, Silver Peak, Cisco Meraki.

Firewalls & Security: Palo Alto NGFW (Panorama, GlobalProtect, WildFire), FortiGate, Cisco ASA, SSL Decryption, IPS/IDS, VPN.

Zero Trust & NAC: Zscaler ZIA/ZPA, Cisco ISE, Aruba ClearPass, Cisco SDA.

Load Balancing & ADC: F5 BIG-IP (LTM/GTM), Citrix ADC (NetScaler), A10 ADC.

Cloud & Hybrid Networking: AWS (VPC, TGW, Direct Connect), Azure (VNet, NSG, ExpressRoute), GCP (VPC, Cloud NAT), Aviatrix.

Automation & DevOps (IaC): Ansible, Terraform, Python (Netmiko, REST APIs), GitLab CI/CD, Jenkins, API Integrations.

Monitoring & Observability: SolarWinds, Splunk, FortiAnalyzer, Wireshark, SNMP, NetBox, CoPilot.

DDI & Web Security: BlueCat, Infoblox, Blue Coat ProxySG, DNS RPZ, DHCP/DNS Management.

Wireless & Mobility: Cisco 9800 WLC, Aruba Wi-Fi 6, Meraki MR, Ekahau Site Survey.

ITSM & Tools: ServiceNow, Jira, Confluence, Change Management.

EDUCATION

- Master's Computer Science, University of Central Missouri, USA
- Bachelors in Electronics and communication Engineering, JNTUH, India

CERTIFICATIONS

- (CCNP) Cisco Certified Network Professional
- (CCNA) Cisco Certified Network Associate
- (AWS)- Amazon Web Services Networking Specialty
- (PCNSE)- Palo Alto Networks Certified Network Security Engineer

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Client: Liberty Mutual, Remote **Role: Senior Network Engineer**

Responsibilities:

 Centralized Palo Alto NGFW management using Panorama for policy governance, GlobalProtect VPN integration with SAML, and SSL decryption across hybrid environments. Optimized App-ID and threat signatures, aligning with **SOX and GDPR compliance** for claims and policy applications.

Jan 2024 - Till date

- Managed Zscaler ZIA/ZPA for secure Internet and remote access, implementing SSL inspection, DNS tunneling prevention, and CASB integration for SaaS insurance tools. Integrated with Azure AD to enforce identity-driven security for remote and BYOD users.
- Deployed Citrix ADC (NetScaler) appliances within DMZ zones to securely deliver partner and customer-facing web applications. Configured SSL offload, rewrite/responder policies, and Layer 7 load balancing, improving response times by **20%**.
- Implemented Cisco ISE for posture-based NAC and policy enforcement across corporate and remote sites. Integrated with Azure AD for identity mapping and configured guest access portals for auditors and short-term contractors.
- Redesigned Liberty Mutual's global WAN using Cisco SD-WAN (Viptela/Versa) with dual transport (MPLS/DIA) and AppQoE routing for underwriting systems, achieving 99.99% uptime across 100+ branch sites.
- Integrated AWS Transit Gateway with on-prem Cisco ACI via BGP/IPSec tunnels, establishing secure hybrid cloud communication and enforcing **Cloud Security** and zero-trust route segmentation.
- Configured F5 GTM/DNS for topology-based routing across regional data centers, ensuring sub-second failover and continuous availability of customer and claims applications.
- Developed reusable Terraform modules (Aviatrix Provider) for provisioning TGWs, FireNet, and Spoke Gateways across AWS, Azure, and GCP. Enabled CoPilot for route validation, policy compliance, and multi-cloud visibility.
- Provisioned AWS VPCs for regulated workloads using Direct Connect and least-privilege IAM models. Automated VPC Flow Log retention via S3 lifecycle policies for SEC and SOX audit traceability.
- Configured Azure NSGs and ASGs to segment financial workloads, embedding policies into Terraform pipelines and

validating compliance via Azure Security Center and Sentinel dashboards.

- Automated multi-vendor configuration using Ansible, Python (Netmiko, REST APIs), and CI/CD pipelines within the **Network Automation Framework**, reducing manual changes by 60%.
- Built **real-time monitoring dashboards** in **SolarWinds and NCM**, tracking utilization and anomalies, and integrating **ServiceNow APIs** for automatic incident creation and config backups.
- Deployed multi-tenant Cisco ACI fabric defining VRFs, EPGs, and Bridge Domains, integrating Palo Alto NGFWs via L4–L7 service graphs for secure east-west segmentation.
- Configured **F5 BIG-IP LTM** for tiered load balancing with SSL offload, HA mirroring, and HTTP-to-HTTPS redirects using iRules to ensure consistent user experience.
- Managed **Aruba Wi-Fi 6** infrastructure, performing **Ekahau surveys** and RF optimization. Integrated **ClearPass with Cisco ISE** for posture-based onboarding and secure access across offices.
- Deployed **Cisco SD-Access** using **DNA Center**, automating endpoint segmentation and identity-based policies via **ISE**, minimizing VLAN sprawl and improving endpoint mobility.
- Administered FortiGate NGFWs via FortiManager/FortiAnalyzer, configuring SSL inspection, NAT, and IPS signatures
 to secure OT and branch networks.
- Managed Infoblox DDI platform, automating DNS/DHCP provisioning with RPZ threat feeds and ServiceNow CMDB integration for compliance tracking.
- Provisioned **GCP VPCs** for analytics workloads with Private Google Access and Cloud NAT, enforcing IAM policies and integrating audit logs into **Cloud Logging** for unified monitoring.
- Optimized **dynamic routing (BGP, OSPF, EIGRP)** across WAN and data centers, tuning redistribution and failover timers to maintain **SLA-based convergence** and reliability.

Client: Juniper Networks, Westlake, TX

Aug 2023 – Jan 2024

Role: Network Engineer

Responsibilities:

- Managed **Palo Alto VM-Series firewalls** integrated within **Azure** and on-prem **hybrid lab environments**, deploying configuration bundles via **Panorama** and customizing threat signatures to simulate enterprise-grade security validation for Junos-based platforms.
- Administered **FortiGate NGFW (100F–600F Series)** through **FortiManager**, enforcing NAT, IPS, certificate inspection, and application control to replicate production-grade traffic inspection and product validation.
- Implemented **Zscaler Private Access (ZPA)** for internal engineering teams, delivering **Zero Trust** connectivity to lab management and diagnostic tools with posture validation and dynamic segmentation.
- Designed **Splunk dashboards** aggregating logs from **Zscaler, Palo Alto, and Cisco ISE**, enabling telemetry analysis, event correlation, and compliance reporting across lab test environments.
- Deployed Cisco ACI spine-leaf fabric in Juniper's multi-site lab data centers, creating Bridge Domains and EPGs to isolate lab tenants. Integrated FortiGate firewalls using PBR and L4–L7 service graphs for secure east-west segmentation.
- Built and optimized SD-WAN topologies using Cisco Viptela and Silver Peak, defining SLA-based routing and AppQoE
 policies to emulate enterprise traffic flows for performance benchmarking.
- Configured and maintained Meraki MX appliances for remote lab and sandbox access, enabling 4G failover and VLAN segmentation to ensure continuous connectivity during validation testing.
- Led **Cisco DNA Center** deployment for automated switch configuration, developing reusable templates and integrating **Cisco ISE** for **MAC-based onboarding** and posture-driven policy enforcement.
- Configured Citrix ADC (NetScaler) appliances in HA mode to simulate Layer 7 load balancing and traffic management, implementing SSL bridging and content switching to test high-volume portal performance.
- Deployed **F5 BIG-IP appliances** to validate global application delivery, building custom health monitors and traffic shaping rules to replicate real-world enterprise conditions for load and latency testing.
- Configured Aruba Wi-Fi 6 controllers and APs in lab campuses, optimizing 5GHz channel usage and WPA2-Enterprise authentication through ISE for secure device connectivity.
- Integrated **BlueCat DDI** with **RPZ filtering** for DNS-layer threat validation. Automated **DHCP/DNS synchronization** with **ServiceNow CMDB**, enhancing IP governance and audit compliance.

- Developed multi-cloud automation using Terraform to deploy firewall and routing rule sets across Azure, AWS, and GCP test accounts, applying tagging and segmentation policies for SDN validation pipelines.
- Created **GitLab CI/CD pipelines** to automate network provisioning using **Ansible playbooks**, enabling version-controlled rollbacks, automated testing, and REST API-driven reporting.
- Tuned QoS and traffic prioritization policies across MPLS and broadband circuits, applying DSCP marking and LLQ mechanisms. Validated throughput and SLA compliance using iPerf and Cisco SMA tools, improving test accuracy by 25%.

Client: Wipro, India May 2018 – Jul 2022

Role: IT Network Engineer

Responsibilities:

- Configured dynamic routing protocols (OSPF, EIGRP, BGP) on Cisco routers to enable inter-branch communication
 and route redistribution between MPLS and Internet uplinks, achieving redundant WAN connectivity and resilient
 failover.
- Supported VLAN design and implementation on Cisco Catalyst switches, configuring access/trunk ports and
 optimizing Spanning Tree Protocol (STP) to eliminate Layer-2 loops and improve segmentation across multi-floor
 offices.
- Contributed to the deployment of **IPsec VPN and DMVPN overlays**, providing secure connectivity between headquarters and branch offices and validating tunnel health and redundancy performance.
- Monitored SD-WAN overlays and MPLS circuits, analyzing application-aware routing and documenting performance gains for voice, video, and SaaS traffic during link degradation scenarios.
- Assisted senior engineers with **Cisco DNA Center** policy-based automation, enabling automated switch provisioning and **Cisco ISE integration** for identity-driven endpoint segmentation.
- Supported firewall configuration on Palo Alto and Cisco ASA NGFWs, validating NAT, ACL, and VPN policies using real-time logs to ensure secure remote access and compliance.
- Configured SNMP v2/v3 and integrated devices into SolarWinds for interface utilization, bandwidth, and CPU monitoring, allowing proactive anomaly detection.
- Implemented **Layer-2 security controls** (DHCP Snooping, Dynamic ARP Inspection) to mitigate spoofing and strengthen endpoint security posture.
- Participated in **hybrid-cloud connectivity projects**, configuring **VPN tunnels and ExpressRoute/Direct Connect** to extend on-prem networks securely into **AWS and Azure**.
- Supported **AWS** and Azure segmentation by configuring **VPC** subnets, **NSGs**, and route tables, aligning on-prem and cloud firewall policies for consistent enforcement.
- Developed **Python automation scripts (Netmiko, Paramiko)** for interface polling, route verification, and health checks, reducing manual CLI work by **40%** and improving accuracy.
- Built **Ansible playbooks** for VLAN provisioning, configuration backups, and ACL deployment, increasing consistency and cutting human errors by **30%**.
- Created Terraform templates to automate AWS VPC and Azure VNet provisioning with reusable, versioncontrolled modules for Infrastructure as Code (IaC) standardization.
- Used Wireshark for packet capture and analysis, troubleshooting DNS delays, TCP retransmissions, and DHCP issues, reducing troubleshooting time by 25%.
- Collaborated with the SD-WAN engineering team to develop Cisco vManage feature templates and integrate
 DNA Center APIs for automated VLAN, QoS, and policy deployment across enterprise branches.