Eric J. Van Der Heide

Cybersecurity Leader | IT Infrastructure Expert | Defense & Space Systems Specialist

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Targeting Cybersecurity Roles in Higher Education

Professional Profile

Highly organized, knowledgeable, and innovative information technology, cyber threat, and security expert with excellent critical thinking and interpersonal and instructional skills. Proven record of training, mentoring, and leading teams to achieve mastery of complex systems and abstract concepts in highly complex and large-scale military, intelligence, and information technology environments.

Core Strengths: Strategic IT Leadership | IT Management | Project Management | Team Building | Network Security Expertise | Innovative Problem-Solving | Effective Communication

Professional Experience

Senior Network Engineer (40 hours/week)   October 2022 – December 2024
S2 Global, an OSI Systems Company

- Designed scalable and maintainable architectures to meet business objectives and service-level agreements.
- Optimized, developed, and planned LANs and WANs, ensuring continuous improvement while mentoring and cross-training colleagues and direct reports.
- Implemented, deployed, and maintained diverse network hardware, software, and infrastructure systems and technologies.
- Collaborated closely with various IT teams and vendors to enforce network security controls that exceeded compliance and design standards, such as zero trust principles.
- Conducted audits and effectively negotiated with vendors to ensure industry best practices were upheld for monitoring network performance and managing assets.
- Translated business and policy requirements into reliable network operation and performance.
- Proficient in Networking (Cisco, Fortinet, SonicWall), Servers (Dell, HP), Storage (Dell EMC, HP, Synology), Monitoring Systems (SolarWinds Orion, VMware VCenter, Symantec Endpoint Management), Operating Systems (CentOS, VMware 7 & 8, Windows 10, 11, Server 2019 & 2022, SQL Server 2019), VPN, SSO, MFA, Layer 2 & 3 switching.

Chief, Network Management (40 hours/week)   October 2020 – July 2022
Supervisor IT Specialist (Network), NH-2210-03
412th Communications Squadron (412 CS/SCOIM), Edwards Air Force Base

- Led a 16-person team of civilian and military personnel to operate and defend the USAF's second-largest base within the cyberspace domain, providing full-spectrum capabilities to support weapons system testing, evaluation, and development.
- Delivered AFnet and other cyber resources to the 412th Test Wing's 9,000 users, 8 Geographically Separated Units, and 255 Test & Evaluation programs to ensure successful joint warfighter missions.
- Maintained operational capabilities as resourcefully as possible, including VoIP, wired, and wireless network services, while contending with various major facility issues (electrical, water, and HVAC).
- Winner of the 2021 Second Quarter Supervisor Award and 2021 Team of the Year Network Infrastructure for the 412th Communications Squadron.

Information Security Analyst / Programmer/Analyst 3 (40 hours/week)   June 2017 – June 2020
UCLA Information Technology Services / IT Security

- Collaborated with the Chief Information Security Officer and Information Security Team to assess, manage, and

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remediate security breaches and system vulnerabilities, and ensure compliance with federal, state, and University regulations.

- Responsible for technical analysis of applications and infrastructure for compliance with university cybersecurity standards.
- Assisted in coordinating various cybersecurity initiatives to maintain a secure computing environment for the entire UCLA campus and made recommendations to university leadership.
- Worked closely with other departmental IT staff to apply modern security tools, standards, and methods to networks, operating systems, and custom or packaged applications.

Private Investigator (40 hours/week)   March 2011 – September 2020
ACTForensic.com, Inc.

- Cyber/Digital Forensics investigator for Licensed California Investigator (25889) and eDiscovery expert.
- Investigated computers, servers, and the Internet in a forensically sound manner for use as evidence in civil, criminal, and family law disputes.
- Examined e-mails and other digital media for employee misconduct.
- Adept at using Paraben's E3/P2 Commander computer forensic software, FTK, and other tools to extract evidence and make case reports.

Senior Network Engineer / Data Center Manager (40 hours/week)   June 2016 – January 2017
Alchemy Communications

- Accountable for the 24/7 operation of Alchemy's Irvine data center.
- Managed highly technical staff and reported to the Chief Technology Officer
- Consulted with clients to support their businesses with strategies in migration and utilization of a colocation site and/or the cloud.

Senior Network Administrator / Infrastructure Engineer (40 hours/week) July 2004 – June 2016
HMWC CPAs and Business Advisors

- Responsible for the WAN, desktop, departmental budgeting, strategic planning, operations, and information technology management.
- Adept at Aerohive Wireless networks, Cisco 2600 and 2900 routers, and ASA/VPNs; Dell PowerEdge servers, PowerVault MD-series SAN, PowerConnect switches, workstations, laptops, and KACE KBOX; Microsoft Windows infrastructure (desktop and server OSes, AD, SQL server, RDP/terminal server, and on-premise Exchange); ShoreTel call management server, ShoreWare Director and Communicator, Shore Tel Mobility router; VMware ESXi, vSphere, vCenter and View Horizon Suite, Site Recovery Manager, Cloud, Workstation; Symantec Endpoint Protection, Blackberry Enterprise Server, 3Com PoE switches.

Military Experience & Leadership

Authority in emergency management concepts, NIMS, SIMS, and FEMA Incident Command Systems. Senior Military Emergency Management Specialist. Seasoned Exercise Planner with experience in Emergency Operation Centers. Eight emergency state activations included support for multiple wildfires and humanitarian missions, as well as the deployment of over 800 airmen. Completion of 32 FEMA courses.

Deputy Director, Cyber Operations (Part-Time)   November 2024 - Present
State Guard Association of the United States

- Support SGAUS Cyber Academy Operations.
- Validate members' qualifications to certify Cyber Defense Specialist qualifications.
- Provide subject matter expertise during various defensive cyber operations exercises.

Operations Officer (Part-Time)   January 2016 – Present

146th & 195th Support Group, California State Guard

- Cyberspace Warfare Operations Officer for the 261st Cyberspace Operations Squadron.
- Managed personnel, training, and operations that support our Air National Guard host units.

Lead RAPTR/ESAD Officer (Part-Time)   June 2020 – September 2020

California Military Department

- Provided leadership as the senior RAPTR officer for the 146th Force Support Squadron during the following State and National emergencies: Civil Support (COVID-19), Civil Unrest, and Wildland Fires.
- Subject Matter Expert on RAPTR and Emergency State Active-Duty activations.

Executive Officer (Part-Time)   January 2012 – December 2015

146th Support Group, California State Guard

- Accountable for managing unit activities, advising the commander on prominent issues, and providing timely and actionable information.

Officer in Charge (Part-Time)   January 2008 – December 2011

146th Support Group, California State Guard

- Mission planner, Range Safety Officer, part of the 146th Security Forces Squadron Command Staff

Education

Certificate of Business Excellence, Executive Education   In Progress

University of California, Berkeley, Haas School of Business

Bachelor of Science, Space Studies   2025

American Military University

Micro-Masters, Cybersecurity   2018

Rochester Institute of Technology

Graduate Studies, Astronomy   2014

San Diego State University

Associate of Science, Astronomy & Physics

2013

Saddleback College

Associate of Arts, Business, Computer Information & Applied Technology   2012

Irvine Valley College

Bachelor of Arts, Criminal Justice   2007

California State University, Fullerton

Associate of Science, Computer Information Management   2003

Irvine Valley College

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science   1996

University of California, Irvine

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Professional Training

International Information System Security Certification Consortium (ISC2)
Certified in Cybersecurity   *May 2025*

Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency (DCSA)
Privileged User Cybersecurity Responsibilities   *February 2025*

EC Council
Associate Certified Chief Information Security Officer   *January 2025*

Defense Acquisition University, Department of Defense
Project Management Certification – Cybersecurity   *December 2024*

Global Space University
Certified Space Professional Level 2   *November 2024*

State Guard Association of the United States (SGAUS)
Basic Cyber Defense Specialist Certification   *October 2024*

CompTIA
CompTIA Secure Infrastructure Specialist   *June 2022*
CompTIA Security+ ce Certification   *June 2022*
CompTIA IT Operations Specialist   *June 2022*
CompTIA Network+ and A+   *May 2003*

Air Force Materiel Command
Supervisor Development Course   *September 2021*

Air University
Military Personnel Management Course   *September 2021*

United States Space Force
Space 100   *August 2020*

Los Angeles Fire Department
Leadership Academy   *October 2019*

United States Air Force
Cyber 100   Cyber Operations Fundamental Course   *May 2015*

The Australian National University
edX XSeries Certificate, Astrophysics   *2014 – 2015*

Microsoft
Microsoft Certified System Administrator   *June 2004*
Microsoft Certified Desktop Technician   *February 2004*
Microsoft Certified Professional   *December 2003*