**Kiresh Patel**

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**Summary:**

* **21 years of experience in the industry, this includes expertise in the areas of Routing, Switching F5 Load balancing and Firewalls**.
* **Have Lead experience for more than 10+ years in a network engineering role.**
* Designed 10 gigabit networks using Cisco Nexus 7000 series switches, Checkpoint NGX.
* Designed and architected a global MPLS Network for network stability.
* Strong hands-on experience on PIX Firewalls, Palo Alto, ASA (5540/5550) Firewalls. Implemented Security Policies using ACL, Firewall, IPSEC, SSL, VPN, IPS/IDS, AAA (TACACS+ & RADIUS)
* Good understanding of networking concepts such as routing protocols, VLANs, IP address management, and network security.
* Strong hands-on experience on PIX Firewalls, Palo alto, ASA (5540/5550) Firewalls. Implemented Security Policies using ACL, Firewall, IPSEC, SSL, VPN, IPS/IDS, AAA (TACACS+ & RADIUS).
* Experience configuring and troubleshooting on Citrix Net Scalar Load Balancer.
* Provide technical assistance to Fortinet’s wireless infrastructure products.
* Understanding the JUNOS platform and worked with IOS upgrade of Juniper devices.
* Hands-on experience in configuration of CISCO NEXUS Datacenter infrastructure with 5000 and 7000 series switches (5548, 7010) including CISCO NEXUS Fabric Extender (2232, 2248).
* Hands on experience in configuring and supporting site-to-site and remote access Cisco, IPsec, VPN solutions using ASA/PIX firewalls, Cisco, B2B VPN client in addition to providing TACACS+ and RADIUS services.
* Implemented Versa SD-WA to improve network performance and resilience, enabling direct access to cloud applications and reducing reliance on MPLS circuits.
* Experience in working with Cisco Nexus 9k, 7k, 5k, 2k Switches and Virtual Port Channel configuration.
* Responsible for implementation of network architecture, designs, Audit and Automation for all DOCSIS teams
* Designed and implemented SASE architecture for seamless integration of security and networking services, including SD-WAN, cloud security and ZTNA.
* Perform Check point and PIX firewall/IDS design, integration and implementation for Cyber Trap client networks.
* Experienced with Cisco CRS-X, CRS-3, CRS-1, ASR 9K, ASR 1K, 12K, 10K, 7500, 7200, 3900, and 3800 routers
* Experience in Networking and security with strong hands-on experience on network and security appliances.
* During POC, Cisco ACI (Application Centric Infrastructure) SDN architecture to reduce operating costs, automate IT tasks, for greater scalability and visibility in a data center environment.
* Migrated from various vendors' routers, switches and firewalls in various parts of the network to Cisco equipment.
* Manage administration of Juniper Firewall, connecting offices worldwide through VPN tunnels to two HA Juniper SSG520's. The VPN provides 24/7/365 connectivity for corporate needs of all remote offices.
* including Palo Alto PA200, PA5050, Juniper SRX240, SRX550, and ASA 5500 series.
* Sound knowledge of virtual firewalls like checkpoint VSX, IDS, IPS as well as encryption techniques.
* Implemented ZTNA security models with SASE solutions, enforcing strict access controls based ion user identity, device security posture and real time risk assessments.
* Focused on next-gen Data Center architectures, including various fabric approaches such as Cisco DFA, ACI, and SDN.
* Worked on Cisco Routers, Active /Passive Hubs, Switches, Juniper SRX firewall, VP
* Worked extensively with ASR 9K (9010 9922), Nexus 7000, 5000, 2000, Cisco 6500 series multilayer switches, Cisco 2960s series switches and Cisco 3560/3750s switches.
* Deployed Cisco Fire Sight, ISE using certificate authority signed certs with pxGrid remediation module.
* Worked on Extensively on Cisco Firewalls, ASA 5500(5510/5540) & Cisco PIX (506E/515E/525/) Series.
* Automated the cloud deployments using Puppet, Python and AWS Cloud Formation Templates.

**Certifications:**

* Cisco Certified Network Associate.
* Cisco Certified Network Professional (Pursuing).

**Technical Skills:**

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| Routers and Switches | Cisco Switches (2900, 2924, 2950, 3550, 5500, 6500, 6509, 6513), Cisco routers (2600, 2800, 3640, 3825, 7200, 7204, 7206, 7600), ASR 9k, Nexus 7k, 5k, 2k |
| Protocols | RIP, RIP2, PPP, OSPF, EIGRP, IS-IS, BGP, SNMP, HTTP, FTP, TFTP, HTTP, DHCP, SMTP, ICMP |
| WAN Technologies | Frame Relay, ISDN, PPP, ATM, MPLS, Channel & Leased lines |
| LAN Technologies | Ethernet, TCP/IP, CDP, STP, RSTP, VTP, VLAN, Trunks, Ethernet channel, MPLS. |
| AAA Architecture | TACACS+, RADIUS, Cisco ACS. |
| Firewalls | ASA, PIX, SRX, Watch guard, ASDM, CSM, Checkpoint |
| Operating Systems | Windows 2000/2003/2008, windows XP/7, LINUX, Red hat, UNIX, Macintosh |
| Servers | Domain servers, DNS servers, WINS servers, Mail Servers, Proxy Servers, Print Servers, Application servers, FTP Servers |
| Load balancer | F5 Load Balancer, ACE, LTM & GTM series. |
| Monitoring Tools | Wireshark, Fiddler, Microsoft Network Monitor, solar winds and some sniffers |
| Cloud Technologies | Amazon Web Services (AWS) |
| Testing Tools | IXIA, Spirent |

**Professional Experience:**

**Client: Norfolk State University, VA** **Sept 2024 – Till date**

**Designation: Lead / Sr. Network Engineer**

**Roles & Responsibilities:**

* Designed, configured, tested networks using routing protocols such as ISIS, BGP implemented route distributions wherever needed and created templates for testing in the Lab.
* As part of the project, IronPort migrated to Zscaler cloud proxies where policies and authentication are accessed using Azure AD.
* Responsible for deploying, configuring and maintaining firewalls, load balancers, proxies and DC switching and routing.
* Managed and deployment of SASE solutions to streamline secure access for remote users and branch offices.
* Worked with ZTNA solutions to ensure access to critical business applications is only granted after successful authentication and security validation.
* Deployed and configured Nexus 7K, 5K and 2K model where 2K was used in FEX mode and Nexus 7k pair was configured with VDC and VPC features in distribution, core and access layers.
* Led the deployment of firewall, VPN, and intrusion prevention systems (IPS/IDS) to strengthen cybersecurity.
* Configured and managed advanced security features within versa solutions, including IPS, NGFW, DNS security and DLP.
* Deployed and configured nexus 9zK for VXLAN between 2 DCs.
* Responsible for setting up F5 LTM, GTM, APM and ASM from scratch - set up LTM module in DMZ for external application load balancing. APM and ASM modules for authentication and integration with AD, Imprivata, Application security policies per virtual server using ASM module.
* Designed, deployed, and maintained Cisco ACI fabric in a multi-tenant environment.
* Created Change Tickets in Service Now and implemented them on firewall as per the requirements.
* Performed troubleshooting and fixed CyberArk project related server and firewall issues.
* NX-OS upgrade in Nexus 7010 through ISSU (In service software upgrade)
* Migration from Cisco to Palo Alto firewall & Cisco to Checkpoint firewall.
* Built and support VRRP / Cluster based HA of Checkpoint firewalls.
* Configured Tenants, VRFs, Bridge Domains, EPGs, Contracts, and Application Profiles in ACI.
* Expertise in products like ESM, Extreme Networks, check point, pix, Domino client, Blades/ESXI VMWare.
* Integrated ZTNA solutions with IANM system to enforce least privilege access and multifactor authentication for all users accessing critical appliances.
* Demonstrated competency using security controls to disrupt the attack kill chain.
* Configured Route-Reflectors on the P router on provider’s backbone and troubleshooting BGP issues related to customer route prefixes.
* Configuring IPSEC VPN (Site-Site to Remote Access) on SRX series firewalls.
* Implemented BGP Add path and Multipath for routes coming from different neighbors.
* Configuring SRX devices and troubleshooting them, connecting them with Cisco nexus devices to test connectivity.
* Troubleshot ACI fabric faults, endpoint learning issues, and contract misconfigurations.
* Migration from Cisco to Palo Alto firewall & Cisco to Checkpoint firewall.
* Worked with Traffic Generators like IXIA and Spirent Test Center (STC) for generating traffic for the test scenarios.
* Extreme Networks, Fortinet, Cisco switches, LAN, WAN, VLAN, router, Firewall management, TCP/IP networking concepts, active directory.
* Built and support VRRP / Cluster based HA of Checkpoint firewalls.
* Deploying the policies on firewall using the Checkpoint’s Smart Console Manager and Smart Dashboard.
* Ensured end to end network security with versa’ s UTM capabilities, enhancing protection against cyber threats and data breaches.
* Integrated SD-WAN with SASE frameworks to ensure optimized routing, low-latency connections and secure access to cloud applications.
* Experience with convert Checkpoint VPN rules over to the Cisco ASA solution. Migration with both Checkpoint and Cisco ASA VPN experience.
* Backup and restore of Check Point and Cisco ASA Firewall policies.

**Environment: Cisco 2600, 2800, 3600, 3800, and 7200 game plan routers, Cisco 2950, 3550, 3560, 6509 Catalyst Switches, cisco WLAN, solar winds, f5 load balancing, Nexus, Juniper EX4200, ESW Switch, PIX 525, PIX 515E.**

**Client: GACL, Dahej**  **Sept 2010 – Aug 2024**

**Designation: Sr/ Lead Network Engineer**

**Roles & Responsibilities:**

* RE-IP all sites so that they are all 7000 square feet or less. This is a regulation that needs to be met to comply with an E-911 project.
* Responsible for installation, troubleshooting of Check Point Firewall and LAN/WAN protocols.
* Managing Data Center and assisting other engineers with troubleshooting from network device, storage, and blade servers.
* Integrated ACI with VMware vSphere, UCS, and Layer 3 external networks.
* Configuring F5 Load balancer LTMs and GTMs to isolate traffic from the web servers.
* Extensively used traffic generators like Ix Network (IXIA) and Spirent Test Center (STC).
* Worked with ASA Firewalls upgrades and build configuration for ASA Firewalls for different versions.
* Provide operations and engineering support for critical network and application security systems.
* Configured Tenants, VRFs, and End Point Groups (EPGs) in Cisco ACI to ensure efficient network segmentation.
* Specific expertise in IP/MPLS based pseudo-wire, Layer-2 (VPLS), Layer-3 (VPRN MP-BGP), BGP, Multicast and Triple-Play networks.
* Automated network provisioning using **ACI REST API, Python, and Ansible**.
* Responsible for Cisco ASA firewall administration, Rule Analysis, Rule Modification.
* Working with Cisco Nexus 5000 series switches for data center.
* Worked extensively in Configuring, Monitoring and Troubleshooting Cisco's ASA 5500/PIX security appliance, Failover DMZ zoning & configuring VLANs/routing/NATing with the firewalls as per the design.
* Worked on Blue Coat Proxy SG to safeguard web applications (Black listing and White listing of web URL) in extreme untrusted environments such as guest Wi-Fi zones
* Deployed Nexus switches 2248, 5548, 7018 and implemented features like FEX Links, VPC, VRF, VDC, and OTV, Fabric Path.
* Implemented Micro segmentation, QoS, and Security Policies within ACI.
* Involved in the configuration of the Nexus 2248 Fabric Extender (FEX) module on the Nexus 5000 to connect servers and storage devices.
* Migration of existing IPSEC VPN tunnels from pre-shared key to Certificate Authority for purpose of scaling
* Defined and enforced ZTNA policies based on user identity, device compliance, application sensitivity and risk posture, ensuring dynamic granular access control.
* Worked on Riverbed devices for WAN bandwidth Optimization in the data centers for the sensitive
* Configuring rules and Maintaining Palo Alto Firewalls & Analysis of firewall logs using various tools.
* Dealing with Change Requests and making the required customization changes as per the requirement.
* Worked with RFC Service Management and Monitoring System and Remedy IT Service Management.
* Created custom URL-Filtering profiles and attached them to security policy rules that allow web access.
* Established network latency and configured Traffic Engineering parameters as needed on trunk and access circuits, interfaces, LAGs and ports as needed.
* Migrated traditional network infrastructure to ACI with minimal downtime.
* Responsible for Cisco ASA firewall administration across our global networks.
* Configured Cisco ASA 5510 for VPN Network Access Control integration with Cisco ISE (Inline PEPs).
* Scheduled maintenance of Nexus (2248, 5548, and 7010) switches so that there are no Orphan ports in the network, and all Users to be dual homed, so that they have sufficient redundancy.
* Provided redundancy in a multi homed Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) network by tunings AS-path
* Configured policy-based routing for BGP for complex network systems

**Environment: Juniper firewalls 5GT, 208, SSG 5, 140, 550, 550M, NSM, IDS/IPS 6500/3750/3550 3500/2950 switches, Juniper (M320, T640), Load adjusting, Cisco 7200/3845/3600/2800 routers, TACACS, EIGRP, RIP, OSPF, BGP, VPN, MPLS, Ether Channels, Cisco Catalyst Switches, Cisco Prime.**

**Client: GACL, Dahej**  **Sept 2003 – Aug 2010**

**Designation: Network Engineer**

**Roles & Responsibilities:**

* Working on network trouble tickets such as low, high & critical and to complete with respective time limits.
* Designing, installing, deploying, maintaining and troubleshooting of GACL & GNAL networks.
* Network performance monitoring using ping, tracert & telnet.
* Configuration & installation of routers & switches by getting remote access on the client end.
* After successful troubleshoot of routers always monitoring the performance and ensure system availability.
* Working closely with users & Internet providers by opening a separate help ticket to bring network up.
* Experience working with Application-Level Protocols like DNS, DHCP, SMTP, POP, HTTP, FTP & VoIP.
* Optimized remote access for telecommuting and hybrid workforce using versa SASE solutions, providing secure, seamless access to both internal and cloud based resources.
* Experience working with protocols like RIP, OSPF, BGP.
* Installation, configuration, management and support of network hardware and software including MS Windows Servers, MS IIS Servers, MS Exchange Servers, anti-virus systems, virtual servers, SANs, remote access systems (VPN), wireless access systems, etc.
* Provide Level 2/3 support and troubleshooting to resolve issues.
* Working on weekends and calendar holidays whenever company required.
* Establish, monitor, and maintain network security policies and procedures
* Establish backup policies and procedures
* Deployed web security appliances like cisco WSA S170 and bluecoat proxy SGS200/400 for web filtering, data loss prevention and inspection.
* Responsible for running the daily reports for modem status and modem logs and working on anomalies and then uploading them at the company’s SharePoint.
* Performing constant monitoring of the network and assessing vulnerabilities, scrutinizing alerts from security surveillance systems, and responding to security events.
* Experience with supporting tools such as Microsoft Virtual Servers, Microsoft Hyper-V, MS System Center Suite, VMWare, Microsoft System Center Operations Manager and Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager.
* Configuration Sophos Firewall & setup GACL User Internet policy & security
* Configured & Maintained Email Server for GACL User
* Servers and workstation scanning using Nessus software on weekly and monthly basis.
* Managing more than 800 users account in an active directory enables add and deletion of user’s accounts.
* Troubleshot and resolved issues related to SASE infrastructure, ensuring minimal downtime and peak performance for end users.
* Worked remotely on weekends & holidays.
* Provide remote technical assistance and support for incoming queries and issues related to computer systems, software, and hardware.
* Working closely with Project Managers, Vendors and Field Technicians at site.
* Working on weekends and calendar holidays whenever company required.
* Expressing technical ideas to the team and making clear and convincing talk via presentations in the meeting
* Troubleshoots hardware and software problems, assists users with desktop applications and provides user training
* Respond to email messages, web inquiries, and or phone calls for GACL users.
* Utilizes support applications to track user requests from trouble ticket generation to resolution.
* Supports MS network including MS Windows 2003 and 2008 Servers and Enterprise Servers, MS Active Directory
* Managed and expanded versa SD-WAN across geographically dispersed locations, optimizing traffic paths and ensuring high availability and resilience across the network.
* Proactively Communicates network schedule, backups, and downtime to users
* Coordinates third-party maintenance for network hardware, software, and data communications services

**Environment: Cisco 3750, 3550, 3560, 2924, 6504, 6505, 6500 series switches and 7206, 2611, 6748, T1 controller, DS3 Lines, Fiber and Ethernet cabling**

**Client: Net link Technologies, Vadodara** **May 2001 – July 2003 Designation: Network Engineer**

**Roles & Responsibilities:**

* Performed troubleshooting, while maintaining trouble ticket tracking, following internal/external.
* Responsible for the installation, layout, and maintenance of all network components.
* Troubleshoot and resolve hardware & network technical problems.
* Performed implementation and maintenance tasks on the LAN and WAN network.
* Install, configure and maintain network components like routers, switches, NIC cards.
* Was engaged in preparation of flow charts in diagramming for further performing system checks.
* Needed to run a series of tests in assessing the viability and troubleshooting of the systems.
* Identifies problems in network and determine accuracy and relevance of information.
* Use proper judgment to generate and evaluate reports and to make correct recommendations to the team.
* Ensure desktops are secure with the latest operating system patches and updates.

**Environment: Router 2800,3800, Cisco catalyst switch 3550, 2960. Fiber and Ethernet cabling**