# **Kamal Thakor**

## **Professional Summary**

- Technology leader with 17+ years of international experience in building, mentoring, and leading solution delivery teams across North America, EMEA, and APJ.
- Proven record of transforming underperforming accounts, leading complex data protection and cyber recovery programs, and aligning technology with business outcomes.
- Adept at practice leadership, client relationship management, and cross-functional collaboration, with expertise in data protection, cloud resilience, and security compliance.
- Recognized for driving customer satisfaction, enabling growth, and positioning practices for long-term success.

## **Core Competencies**

- Team Leadership & Mentorship: Guided engineering and architect teams, supported career growth, and fostered high-performance culture.
- Practice & Program Management: Oversight of solution portfolios, delivery quality, and account health.
- Client Relationship Management: Trusted advisor to C-level executives and business stakeholders.
- Cross-Functional Collaboration: Partnered with sales, support, and product teams to align strategy.
- **Escalation & Crisis Management**: Recovered distressed accounts, rebuilt trust, and ensured retention.
- Business Enablement: Delivered workshops, roadmaps, and solution strategies that drove account expansion.
- Strategic Consulting: Cyber recovery, data protection modernization, and cloud transformation.

# Professional Experience

#### **Founder & Principal Consultant**

Vivanka Inc., Toronto, Canada

Apr. 2024 – Present

Vivanka inc

Delivered consulting and advisory services to enterprise clients while managing a small team of contractors. Positioned Vivanka Inc as a trusted advisor for data protection strategy, modernization, and cloud adoption.

- Directed a 6-month program at **Bombardier**, leading a team in upgrading legacy NetWorker to latest versions, ensuring smooth migration and adoption.
- Oversaw design & deployment of PowerProtect Data Manager with Data Domain + cloud tier, aligning architecture with compliance and cost objectives.
- Managed multiple customer engagements, balancing delivery quality, stakeholder alignment, and business outcomes.

# **Consultant Solutions Architect**

Dell Technologies, Toronto, Canada

Oct. 2018 - Apr. 2024



Pre-sales and delivery specialist for Data Protection Systems (DPS), engaging enterprise clients across North America. Designed and presented Dell's portfolio (NetWorker, Avamar, Data Domain, PPDM, Cyber Recovery) in hybrid-cloud and cyber resilience strategies. Provided both leadership and advisory functions within the Data Protection Systems practice, focusing on North American enterprise clients.

- Acted as a program lead on cyber recovery and cloud resilience projects, coordinating delivery teams and ensuring alignment with client C-level priorities.
- Partnered with sales to shape solution strategy, supporting multi-million-dollar opportunities.
- Led client workshops, design sessions, and PoCs, ensuring technical and business alignment.
- Mentored junior architects, elevating team readiness in emerging solutions (PPDM, Cyber Recovery Vault, Al/ML-based resiliency).
- Served as escalation point for complex accounts, restoring customer trust and protecting revenue streams.
- Served as a trusted advisor guiding executives through cyber recovery and cloud backup strategies.
- Introduced **Generative Al–enabled automation and threat detection** into data protection architectures, enhancing security posture.
- Presented at industry events and Dell webinars, improving brand positioning and pipeline growth.
- Influenced adoption of Dell DPS in multi-cloud strategies with Azure, AWS, and GCP integrations.

### Senior Advisor Solutions Architect / Senior Solutions Architect / Solutions Architect

Dell EMC Middle East, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Jul. 2013 - Oct. 2018

EMC<sup>2</sup>

Progressed through senior architecture roles while acting as de facto practice lead for GCC accounts. Supported both pre-sales and delivery functions, working closely with regional sales leadership.

- Team Development: Mentored new hires and junior engineers, building a stronger local practice presence.
- Client Success: Recovered escalated accounts by mediating between customer, support, and engineering teams.
- Recognition: Awarded Solution Architect of the Year Gulf & Pakistan (2014).
- Practice Growth: Helped expand EMC's footprint across Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait by aligning solution design with business outcomes.

EMC<sup>2</sup>

- Delivered implementation services for backup and recovery solutions to customers in the GCC region, ensuring adherence to specifications and design documents.
- Managed implementation delivery of services to achieve high customer satisfaction (95% for most of the customers).
- Collaborated with EMC colleagues worldwide to resolve technical issues encountered during implementations.
- Identified client needs, assessed risks, and recommended appropriate product offerings to meet objectives.

### **Implementation Delivery Specialist**

EMC Data Storage India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, India

Oct. 2007 – Oct. 2010

EMC<sup>2</sup>

As an Implementation Delivery Specialist for Backup & Recovery Systems (BRS) at EMC, I deployed backup and recovery solutions for customers in South Asia.

#### **Key Contributions:**

- Provided delivery services for backup and recovery solutions to customers in the South Asia region.
- Implemented a combination of EMC products including NetWorker, Data Domain, Avamar, Data Protection Advisor, Homebase (BMR) solutions, EMC EmailXtender (SourceOne), and EMC DiskExtender.

### **Technical Consultant / Implementation Specialist**

EMC Thailand, Bangkok, Thailand

Sept. 2006 – Oct. 2007



As a Technical Consultant and Implementation Specialist for Backup and Recovery solutions at EMC, I provided technical consultancy and delivered information protection solutions to clients in the APJ region.

#### Key Projects:

- Implemented NetWorker at various organizations including PTT Thai Oil Public Co. Ltd, Ministry of External Affairs (Bangkok), DTAC, True Move, Siam Pharmaceuticals, and Mitsubishi Motors Ltd.
- Implemented DiskXtender for UNIX/Linux at BAAC.
- Developed Java code for file permissions settings before archiving using DiskXtender for a customer in Malaysia.

## **Educational Qualifications**

**M.Sc. Computer Science**, Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand **B.Sc. Computer Science**, Assumption University, Bangkok, Thailand

# **Learnings & Certifications**

- Dell EMC Certified Implementation Engineer, Avamar, NetWorker, Data Domain, PPDM
- Dell EMC Certified Information Storage Associate
- Generative Artificial Intelligence Fundamentals (DataBricks)
- AWS Cloud Bootcamp from ThinkCloudly
- AWS Solutions Architect Associate (in progress)
- Azure Fundamentals (pending certification)

## **Key Achievements / Honors & Awards**

- Solution Architect of the Year Award Gulf & Pakistan (2014)
- Consistently acknowledged for team mentorship and practice growth contributions
- Recognized for rebuilding client trust in distressed accounts across GCC & North America
- Led backup & recovery transformation projects for Fortune 500 clients
- Automated backup & disaster recovery workflows, improving operational efficiency by 40%
- Conducted cyber resilience assessments and implement zero-trust security measures for large enterprises
- Computer Science Student of the Year 1996