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LANGUAGES

- 🗣 German (Native)
- 🗣 English (B2)

Christian Erben

I bring many years of experience in system administration, particularly in network architecture, design, and the security of redundant network infrastructures. My expertise includes firewall management, the design of secure networks, and in-depth knowledge of exotic protocols and various network products.

PROFILE

I bring nearly two decades of hands-on experience in enterprise IT infrastructure, specialising in the design and safeguarding of complex network environments for financial and retail organisations.

My day-to-day work revolves around managing firewall landscapes, streamlining change processes, maintaining detailed documentation, and coordinating stakeholders across security, infrastructure, and application teams.

EXPERIENCE

Member of the Board

DEGIT AG

Apr 2020 - Present

Hockenheim, Germany

- Board member focusing on data protection, information security, and network strategy for SME clients.
- Connects clients with specialists from DEGIT's expert network and coordinates interdisciplinary consulting teams.
- Oversees the design of secure, redundant infrastructures including firewall concepts, VPN solutions, and backup strategies.
- **Achievement: Established a governance framework aligning network security, privacy, and compliance requirements for new customer projects.**

- Compliance
- Security Strategy
- Networking
- Consulting
- Compliance
- M365
- Cloudflare
- Supabase
- Azure

Network Security / Management

Deutsche Vermögensberatung AG

Oct 2019 - Present

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

- Manage and review network permissions to maintain accurate, secure access controls across the enterprise.
- Continuously clean up legacy rules to reduce complexity and ensure compliance with internal policies.
- Support IT projects with network expertise, ensuring architectures align with current topologies and security standards.
- Maintain detailed network documentation covering topology, policies, and security protocols.
- Coordinate change planning and implementation with infrastructure, security, and application teams.
- Operate proxy infrastructures and monitor network paths including IPSec tunnels and SD-WAN links.
- Support the introduction of cloud-based security services such as Prisma SSE.
- **Achievement: Reduced firewall rule complexity from 5,000 to fewer than 1,000 entries for greater transparency and performance.**
- **Achievement: migration from Palo Alto to Fortinet, translating complex security policies without service interruption.**
- **Achievement: Rolled out secure SD-WAN connectivity for branch offices, improving stability and visibility of network communication.**
- **Achievement: Introduced Microsoft Azure services into the infrastructure while ensuring compliant hybrid connectivity.**

Firewall Management

SD-WAN

IPSec

Proxy

Azure

Change Management

Documentation

Cloud Security

Linux Systems Administrator / Nagios Administrator

Schwarz IT GmbH & Co. KG

Apr 2018 - Dec 2018

Weinsberg, Germany

- Operated large-scale environments with 15,000 physical servers and 50,000 virtual machines.
- Automated provisioning of servers, applications, and configurations via Puppet and Ansible.
- Ensured high availability through structured patch management and monitoring.
- Advised projects on secure infrastructure design and integration into existing monitoring processes.
- **Achievement: Accelerated server rollout cycles by automating golden-image provisioning and compliance checks.**

Linux

Automation

Monitoring

High Availability

Puppet

Ansible

Linux Systems Administrator

Deutsche Vermögensberatung AG

Feb 2011 - Dec 2017

Frankfurt am Main, Germany

- Administered 1,000 physical servers and 2,000 virtual machines in a highly regulated environment.
- Automated server installation and configuration workflows using Puppet and Ansible.
- Operated enterprise email platforms with Dovecot and Postfix including archiving solutions.
- Implemented storage solutions such as Ceph and cloud storage for scalable data services.
- **Achievement: Delivered a mail archiving platform that ensured long-term compliance and simplified eDiscovery.**

Linux

Email

Automation

Storage

Puppet

Ceph

SKILLS & TECHNOLOGIES

Security

Firewall Engineering (Fortinet, Palo Alto) Proxy Management
Secure Web Gateways Access Governance Change Governance
Incident Management Problem Management

Infrastructure

Linux Administration Linux Distributions (Debian, Ubuntu, RHEL) High Availability
Redundancy & Failover IPv6 & Routing VPN & Secure Connectivity Monitoring
Troubleshooting

Tools & DevOps

Bash / Shell Scripting paperless-ngx Git Cursor Postfix / Dovecot
Bind / Unbound Squid Proxy HAProxy Docker Caddy

Management

Change Management Cross-team Coordination Stakeholder Communication
Technical Documentation

AI

AI-assisted Troubleshooting Agentic AI Multimodal AI Causal AI Lovable
OpenAI / ChatGPT Anthropic / Claude Google / Gemini AI Ethics & Governance

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Firewall Rulebase Optimisation

Streamlined enterprise firewall rulebases by analysing 5,000+ objects, consolidating duplicates, and establishing a lifecycle for dormant rules. The result improved performance, readability, and audit readiness.

Firewall Governance Automation

Palo Alto to Fortinet Migration

Planned and executed a platform migration, translating complex objects and policies into Fortinet while keeping services online. Introduced new templates for ongoing policy hygiene.

Migration Fortinet Change Management

SD-WAN Branch Rollout

Connected branch offices via SD-WAN, defined redundancy concepts, and aligned monitoring to ensure transparent operations across all paths.

SD-WAN Networking Monitoring

Azure Integration for Hybrid Infrastructure

Introduced Microsoft Azure services into an on-prem environment, coordinating network connectivity, identity integration, and security baselines.

Azure Hybrid Cloud Security