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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

## AI Training Platform & AI Tools Evaluation

### DEGIT AG

Aug 2025 - Oct 2025

Hockenheim, Germany

- Design and implementation of an internal AI training platform for corporate use, focusing on compliance with the EU AI Act and practical enablement of teams.
- Evaluation and decision paper comparing leading AI and automation platforms with regard to data protection, reliability, API integration, and governance readiness.
- Assessment of emerging agentic AI workflows for multi-step task orchestration and their integration into enterprise automation environments.
- **Achievement: Analyzed and benchmarked: OpenAI ChatGPT, OpenAI Open-Weight GPT-OSS, Microsoft Copilot, Perplexity, Anthropic Claude, Apple Foundation, z.AI GLM, n8n, make.com, Zapier.**
- **Achievement: Developed a modular learning platform prototype with Supabase and Cloudflare integration, role-based content, and progress tracking.**
- **Achievement: Produced a comparative decision framework supporting the company's AI adoption strategy.**

AI Evaluation

AI Training

EU AI Act

Supabase

Cloudflare

Automation

n8n

make.com

Zapier

OpenAI

Apple Foundation

Anthropic Claude

Microsoft Copilot

Perplexity

z.AI GLM

Agentic AI

Enterprise Automation

Cursor

Claude Code

OpenAI Codex

## 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

### Compliance

Regulatory IT Compliance Audit-Readiness & Policy Enforcement  
Financial Sector Control Environments

## 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