

THARAKA DISSANAYAKA

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SENIOR SECURITY & SYSTEM ENGINEER

Senior Systems & Security Engineer with over 7 years of experience driving enterprise resilience and operational efficiency. Expert in hardening hybrid infrastructures (Azure, GCP, VMware) and enforcing Zero Trust architectures, successfully migrating legacy data centers and securing 450+ endpoints against advanced threats. Proven ability to bridge the gap between IT operations and development, leveraging AppSheet to engineer custom ITSM automation that slashed Mean Time to Resolve (MTTR) by 50%. Certified in ISC2 CC, CCNA, and AI Leadership, offering a unique blend of strategic network defense, cloud administration, and process automation.

STRENGTHS AND EXPERTISE

- Cybersecurity & SIEM:** Zero Trust Architecture, SentinelOne EDR, OSSIM, Wireshark, PRTG, Fortinet & SonicWall Firewall.
- Cloud Infrastructure:** Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Microsoft Azure, Entra ID, Google Workspace & Zoho Administration.
- Systems Administration:** Windows Server (2016–2022), Active Directory, DNS, GPO, WSUS, Microsoft Dynamics 365 ERP.
- Networking:** Cisco & Ruckus Routing/Switching, VPNs, VLANs, Enterprise Network Design.
- Virtualization:** VMware ESXi 7, Microsoft Hyper-V.
- Backup & Recovery:** NAKIVO, QSAN, SQL Backup, Snapshots, Disaster Recovery (DR) Setup.
- Development & Automation:** AppSheet (Advanced), PowerShell, Batch Scripting.
- Project Management:** IT Infrastructure Implementation, Vendor Management, Technology Procurement.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Systems and Security Engineer

Chesmi Consolidated (Pvt) Ltd.

February 2020 - Present

- Infrastructure Modernization:** Achieved 99.9% uptime for critical financial operations by architecting a modernized data center using Dell R440 servers and VMware ESXi 7. Upgraded environments to Windows Server 2022 and engineered robust NAS-based disaster recovery protocols.
- Security Architecture:** Fortified network defense for 450 endpoints by upgrading SonicWall firewalls (TZ-300 to TZ-370) and deploying SentinelOne EDR/XDR, enforcing Zero Trust principles to secure remote connectivity.
- Identity & Threat Management:** Mitigated data exfiltration risks by enforcing strict Active Directory GPOs and Google Workspace controls; deployed AlienVault OSSIM and PRTG to ensure 24/7 continuous threat monitoring.
- Internal Tool Development:** Cut IT ticket resolution time by 50% and automated relationship management for 20% of distributors by engineering a custom ITSM/ITAM system and CRM platform on Google Cloud and AppSheet.
- Cloud & ERP Administration:** Engineered a resilient hybrid cloud architecture across Azure and GCP (VMs, vNets, RBAC) while sustaining core ERP performance for Microsoft Dynamics BC and SQL 2019 databases supporting 150+ users.

Technical Lead (Consultant)

Chelcey Solutions (Pvt) Ltd.

December 2022 - December 2025

- Technical Leadership:** Spearheaded technical delivery for a 3-engineer squad, architecting customized infrastructure and security solutions for 10 diverse clients, ensuring client satisfaction and retention.
- Security Consulting:** Designed and implemented infrastructure security measures for external clients, enhancing data protection and ensuring 99% compliance with security standards.
- Team Mentorship:** Guided and mentored team members on technical best practices, improving efficiency and reducing project delivery timelines by 20%.

IT Technical Support (Part-Time)

Taphouse by RnR

February 2020 - March 2022

- **Retail Operations:** Managed the implementation and maintenance of the ZinCat POS system, ensuring uninterrupted sales operations.
- **Infrastructure Support:** Administered LAN networks, CCTV systems, and desktop hardware, resolving technical issues to maintain daily business continuity.

Information Technology Assistant

Nation Lanka Finance PLC

November 2018 - February 2020

- **Endpoint Security:** Administered the ESET Endpoint Server and Management Console, ensuring up-to-date protection for company workstations.
- **Technical Support:** Provided L1/L2 support for hardware, LAN, and peripherals, troubleshooting software issues to minimize downtime for internal staff.

KEY PROJECTS

- **Security Awareness Training Platform:** Developed a gamified cybersecurity training platform using Node.js, Express.js, and PostgreSQL (Supabase). Deployed the solution on Vercel with full CI/CD pipeline integration, demonstrating full-stack development capabilities in a security context.
- **Modern Smart Home Infrastructure:** Orchestrated the deployment of a converged smart home ecosystem, unifying 20+ Ruckus APs, Cisco Meraki networking, and 30+ Hikvision CCTV over a Molex Fiber backbone to support high-bandwidth automation.

EDUCATION

- **Executive Master of Science in Information Security (EMSc IS)** Asia e University, Malaysia | 2025 – 2027 (Reading)
- **Diploma in Network Engineering** National Institute of Business Management (NIBM) | 2023 – 2024
- **Certificate Course in Linux Network Administration** Turnkey IT Campus | 2018

CERTIFICATIONS

- Certified in Cybersecurity (CC), ISC2
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA)
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)
- Google Cloud Generative AI Leader
- Google Cyber Security Professional
- Cisco Cyber Ops Associate
- Cisco DevNet Associate
- Fortinet Network Security Associate (NSE 1, 2 & 3)
- CompTIA Security+ (Candidate / In Progress)
- Google Cloud Associate Cloud Engineer (Candidate / In Progress)