

Ali Raza

Network and Security Engineer

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Network and Security Engineer with hands on experience designing, deploying and safeguarding enterprise network infrastructure across multi site environments. Responsible for the network estate across 31 IMARAT facilities nationwide, from large offices carrying 600 concurrent users to small sites of 50. Microsoft Certified Azure Administrator with practical expertise in FortiGate and Palo Alto next generation firewalls, VPN architecture, cloud security and IT systems administration. Reduced mean time to resolution from 4 hours to 45 minutes, improved infrastructure scalability by 35 percent and cut security incidents by 25 percent.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Network Support Engineer, IMARAT

Islamabad, Pakistan | September 2025 to Present

- Hold overall responsibility for network infrastructure across 31 facilities nationwide, ranging from large offices carrying 600 concurrent users to small sites of 50, sustained at 99.9 percent availability.
- Deployed and integrated a Zabbix network monitoring system with Microsoft Teams alerting, reducing mean time to resolution from 4 hours to 45 minutes.
- Deployed Wazuh for centralised security monitoring, log analysis and threat detection across the server estate.
- Configured FortiGate, Palo Alto, Huawei and Cisco infrastructure, achieving a 35 percent improvement in network scalability.
- Implemented site to site IPsec and SSL VPNs, reducing inter site data transfer latency by 20 percent.
- Tuned QoS policies across the estate for bandwidth allocation and consistent performance under load.
- Cut security incidents by 25 percent through firewall policy, ACL and IPS hardening.
- Administered Ubuntu Server and Windows Server environments, including Hyper V and Proxmox virtualisation.
- Managed Microsoft 365 including Exchange Online, SharePoint and Entra ID for organisation wide identity and collaboration.
- Designed, built and deployed a self hosted visitor management platform in production use across 31 locations: Node.js and Express API of 47 endpoints, 11 table PostgreSQL schema, QR pass pre registration by email, and PDF reporting.

Information Technology Intern, Graana.com

Lahore, Pakistan | July 2025 to September 2025

- Troubleshoot hardware, software and network issues for end user devices, keeping downtime to a minimum.
- Configured and managed Ubiquiti USG firewall policies and secure access controls.
- Implemented QoS settings for efficient bandwidth allocation and stable internet performance.

IT Support and System Administrator, Khired Networks

Lahore, Pakistan | June 2025 to July 2025

- Managed IT support tickets through the ITAM system, ensuring timely tracking and resolution.
- Diagnosed and resolved hardware, software and connectivity issues across Windows environments.

Network Operations Center Intern, NADRA

Peshawar, Pakistan | July 2024 to August 2024

- Deployed and configured network infrastructure for a new NADRA facility, achieving full connectivity at initial setup.
- Maintained 99.9 percent operational uptime through proactive testing and troubleshooting.
- Organised network racks and structured cabling, improving space utilisation by 30 percent against industry standards.

Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador, Microsoft

Peshawar, Pakistan | October 2024 to April 2025

- Mentored 50 plus students, driving a 40 percent increase in workshop engagement.
- Organised 10 plus workshops and webinars with 80 percent attendee satisfaction.

KEY PROJECT

Visitor Management System

Sole Developer | Node.js, Express, PostgreSQL, nginx, Ubuntu Server | 2026

- Built and deployed a self hosted visitor management platform in daily production use across 31 office locations, covering sign in and sign out, pre registration with emailed QR passes, and management reporting.
- Delivered the full stack single handed: approximately 14,900 lines across a Node.js and Express API of 47 endpoints, an 11 table relational schema and four browser front ends, with 12 runtime dependencies.
- Wrote a database abstraction layer running the identical application on SQLite and PostgreSQL, verified by a suite passing 19 of 19 cross engine checks.
- Implemented layered security: bcrypt password hashing, JWT sessions, per account logout, per route rate limiting, a Content Security Policy and parameterised SQL throughout.
- Hardened the Ubuntu host with UFW policy and fail2ban jails, and automated deployment end to end to a systemd service behind nginx with TLS.
- Wrote an executable test suite of 92 assertions covering authorisation, expiry, single use enforcement and cross engine SQL behaviour.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Network Security: FortiGate, Palo Alto, Ubiquiti USG Pro 4, Cisco ASA, IPsec and SSL VPN, IDS and IPS, SIEM, MFA, ACLs, Vulnerability Assessment, Threat Detection, Incident Response

Network Infrastructure: Cisco Catalyst PoE Switches, Huawei Routers, UniFi, Ruckus, Omada OC400, Ubiquiti LiteBeam 5AC, Layer 2 and Layer 3 Switching, Structured Cabling TIA EIA 568

Monitoring and Security Tools: Zabbix, Wazuh, Wireshark, Nmap, Nessus, Splunk, Security Onion, Snort, Suricata

Protocols: TCP/IP, OSPF, EIGRP, BGP, VLANs, QoS, NAT and PAT, DHCP, DNS, HSRP, VRRP

Cloud and Virtualisation: Microsoft Azure, AWS, Microsoft 365, VMware vSphere and ESXi, Hyper V, Proxmox, Hybrid Cloud

Operating Systems and Administration: Ubuntu Server, Windows Server, Linux CentOS and RHEL, Active Directory, PowerShell, Bash, systemd, nginx

IT Service Management: ITIL, ITAM, SLA Management, Ticketing Systems, Technical Documentation, Disaster Recovery Planning

CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate, Microsoft, September 2023
- Google Cybersecurity Professional Certificate, Google, December 2024
- Google IT Support Professional Certificate, Google, November 2024
- Fortinet Network Security Expert NSE 1, NSE 2, NSE 3, Fortinet, August 2023

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

University of Agriculture, Peshawar, Pakistan | November 2021 to June 2025

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- Cyber Security, Corvit Systems Peshawar, 2024. Network Security, Ethical Hacking, Threat Detection, Risk Management.
- Cloud Computing, Corvit Systems Peshawar, 2023. AWS, Azure, Windows Server Administration, VMware vSphere.
- Networking, Corvit Systems Peshawar, 2023. CCNA, CCNP Routing and Switching.