

Corley Efurd

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IT Solutions Architect | Cybersecurity Specialist | DevSecOps Strategist

Highly versatile IT leader with 20+ years spanning network architecture, cyber defense, systems automation, and multi-cloud environments. Adept at designing enterprise-grade secure infrastructures from the ground up across data centers, hybrid clouds, and DevOps pipelines. Renowned for spearheading Cisco's first secure ACI multi-cloud architecture and delivering high-impact automation strategies with precision and resilience. Passionate about bridging deep technical mastery with strategic vision to transform global IT ecosystems.

Experience

IT Solutions Architect / Manager

Metlife Insurance, Tokyo, Japan · *May 2023 – Present*

- Designed and implemented a DevOps automation platform tailored for the Network Engineering team, enabling scalable task automation and improved consistency across environments.
- Directed cross-vendor service coordination and project delivery, enhancing alignment between local and U.S. teams for global deployment strategies.
- Led the integration of Netbeez monitoring to increase network visibility and proactive incident response capabilities.
- Collaborated with internal security and audit teams to close multiple high-severity CVEs and resolve open audit findings across infrastructure.
- Automated R&S device backups and routine tasks with Python, improving operational efficiency and reducing manual workload.
- Supported MAC deployment strategies using Cisco AnyConnect and ISE, addressing authentication challenges and improving endpoint compliance.

- Earned certifications in Palo Alto Networks (PCNSA) and Microsoft Azure (AZ-900) while maintaining top 1% standing on TryHackMe.

Independent Projects & Technical Focus (2024–Present)

- Developed full-stack AI automation workflows using **n8n**, **Supabase**, and **custom Python integrations**, orchestrating API calls and intelligent task flows for data enrichment, TTS narration, and IoT interaction.
- Built and deployed modern front-end applications using **React**, **Vite**, and **TailwindCSS**, with integration to back-end microservices and cloud deployments via **Docker** and **Portainer**.
- Implemented advanced metadata embedding tools and AI-driven automation agents for social media growth, combining SEO, webhooks, and chat-based intelligence.

Senior Engineer / Team Lead – Customer Zero Datacenter

Cisco Systems Japan, Tokyo · Sep 2013 – May 2023

- Served as technical lead for Cisco's global **Customer Zero** initiative, designing, deploying, and securing alpha-stage technologies before global release.
- Architected and operationalized Cisco's **first hybrid ACI Multi-Cloud Fabric**, seamlessly connecting AWS, GCP, and on-prem HyperFlex with a unified secure policy framework.
- Drove security architecture for next-gen internal and DMZ environments, earning **full InfoSec approval** following a rigorous 12-month threat assessment.
- Developed automated CI/CD pipelines with **GitLab**, **Jenkins**, **Ansible**, and **Ansible Tower**, establishing a secure code delivery flow with built-in security reviews and rollback strategies.
- Led red and blue team exercises simulating advanced persistent threats and incident response protocols, reinforcing enterprise-wide cyber readiness.

- Reviewed and approved production code and configuration changes across platforms, enforcing best practices and secure deployment standards.
- Delivered global use cases and documentation for internal and customer-facing adoption of cutting-edge Cisco infrastructure solutions.

Project Manager – Datacenter as a Service (DCaaS)

Cisco Systems Japan, Tokyo · Jun 2012 – Sep 2013

- Spearheaded **Datacenter-as-a-Service (DCaaS)** initiatives across APAC, enabling internal business units to rapidly deploy virtual environments through Cisco's internal IaaS platform (**CITIES**).
- Collaborated with global governance teams to define **datacenter compliance, governance standards**, and service delivery protocols across the Asia-Pacific region.
- Led development of **Business Resumption (BRB)** and **Business Continuity Plans (BCP)** for Japan and Korea, ensuring operational resilience in disaster recovery scenarios.
- Conducted high-level technical briefings for partners and clients in Cisco's "**Cisco on Cisco**" series, sharing internal engineering insights to bolster client adoption of Cisco technologies.
- Project-managed consolidation efforts across legacy datacenters globally, streamlining operations and supporting transition to **virtualized infrastructure platforms**.

Global Systems Administrator

Cisco Systems Japan, Tokyo · Jun 2005 – Jun 2012

- Secured and maintained global **Unix, Linux, and Mac infrastructure**, leading global vulnerability remediation and patch management across mission-critical systems.
- Developed internal software solutions for automated **infrastructure scanning, updates**, and security compliance reporting.
- Collaborated closely with **InfoSec teams** on threat assessments, incident response protocols, and vulnerability documentation for corporate audits.

- Deployed and managed Cisco UCS B and C Series blade servers, along with Nexus switches and multi-vendor storage systems including EMC, NetApp, and Veritas.
- Engineered Cisco's **first outbound "Vavoom" VPN infrastructure**, enabling secure client access and expanding remote capabilities for global operations.
- Authored and maintained documentation for global datacenter procedures, security hardening guides, and backup strategies.
- Implemented high-efficiency **data backup and deduplication systems**, improving storage efficiency and recovery reliability across multiple global sites.

Earlier Technical Experience

Director of Engineering

AccessABN / Pickens Capital, Dallas, TX – Mar 2004 to Dec 2004

- Recruited by T. Boone & Bryan Pickens to evaluate and secure proprietary software systems.
- Led code review and remediation efforts to address security and reliability flaws in critical investment platforms.

Founder / Lead Automation Engineer

Dallas Automated Systems, Inc. (DASI), Dallas, TX – Feb 1996 to Jan 2004

- Founded and operated a successful engineering firm delivering **factory automation systems** for clients including Dr. Pepper, Frito-Lay, and Outback Steakhouse.
- Designed and implemented industrial-grade automation solutions using **Allen Bradley, Sixnet, Siemens**, and custom software integration in C/C++ and Ladder Logic.

Platform Security Developer

Vanten KK, Tokyo, Japan – Apr 2005 to May 2005

- Engineered secure web and mail platforms for early QR code deployments in Japan.
- Wrote system tools in **PHP, Bash, TCSH, and Perl** for high-throughput server performance and security auditing.

Education & Certifications

Certifications:

- **Palo Alto PCNSA** – Palo Alto Networks Certified Network Security Administrator
- **Microsoft Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)**
- **TryHackMe – Pentesting Professional Certification (THM-41H5U81T6K)**
- **TryHackMe – Pentesting Junior Certification (THM-8UIW6FIJKD)**
- **StationX: The Complete Application Security Course (cert_9nd7d2ry)**
- **StationX: The Complete Cyber Security Course, Volume 1 (cert_1-2628)**
- **Cisco Security Ninja Certifications (Internal)**
- **BrainBench Certifications:**
 - Linux Administration (General)
 - Red Hat Linux Administration
 - Unix Administration (General)

Currently Preparing:

- **Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSCP)** – *Targeting certification Q2 2026*

Education:

- **Associate of Applied Science, Computer Information Systems**
ATI Technical Institute, Dallas, TX · 1988–1989
- **Coursework toward B.A. in Computer Information Systems**
Richland College, Dallas, TX · 1998–2000
- **Additional Studies:**
Eastfield College, Dallas, TX · 1987–1988

Core Technical Competencies

Languages & Scripting:

Python, Ruby, Bash, PowerShell, PHP, HTML/CSS, JavaScript, C++, Ladder Logic, Visual Basic

Cloud & Infrastructure:

AWS, GCP, Azure, Cisco CCP, Docker, Portainer, VMware, Proxmox, OpenStack, Git, Jenkins, GitHub Actions

Network & Security:

Cisco ACI, Catalyst/Nexus/ASA, Palo Alto NGFW, PCNSA Certified, Wireshark, Metasploit, OpenVAS, Zeek, Velociraptor, ISE, Netbeeze, ThousandEyes

DevOps & Automation:

Ansible, n8n, Terraform (in progress), ServiceNow, NetBox, SolarWinds, Python scripting, GitOps, CI/CD pipelines

Monitoring & Logging:

Splunk, Syslog, Wazuh, Tanium, NetScout nGenius, Netbeeze, Aurora

Databases:

PostgreSQL, MySQL, MSSQL, Supabase, MongoDB, Oracle RAC

OS & Virtualization:

Linux (Red Hat, Kali, Ubuntu, SuSE, Parrot), Unix (FreeBSD, Solaris), Windows Server/Desktop, MacOS, VirtualBox, ESXi, Xen