Michael Fields

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## SUMMARY

Results-driven Network Engineer with 6+ years of experience specializing in network automation, cloud networking, and security. Proficient in designing and optimizing scalable, high-performance network infrastructures across multi-region deployments. Strong background in automating network operations using Python, Ansible, and Cisco Meraki APIs, leading to a 30% reduction in downtime. Experienced in cloud networking (AWS, Azure), SD-WAN, and firewall security, with a proactive approach to process improvement. Skilled in collaborating with distributed teams to drive efficiency and innovation.

## SKILLS

Azure Cloud Networking & Security

* Designed and implemented Azure VNETs, ExpressRoute, VPN/IPSEC tunnels, and NSG policies to ensure secure and high-performance cloud connectivity.
* Experience with Azure Firewall, Private Endpoints, and hybrid networking for secure application deployment.

Firewall Configuration & Security Patching

* Configured and managed Palo Alto NGFW, Cisco ASA, and Azure Firewall, ensuring proper segmentation and Zero Trust policies.
* Worked with security teams to remediate vulnerabilities, apply security patches, and automate firewall rule changes using Terraform and Ansible.

Network Automation & Infrastructure as Code

* Automated Azure networking and firewall configurations using Terraform, Ansible, and Python, reducing manual effort and increasing efficiency.
* Developed scripts to automate security patching, compliance checks, and network monitoring in cloud environments.

Cisco Routing & Switching Troubleshooting

* Experience with Cisco route/switch, VLANs, BGP, OSPF, and SD-WAN in hybrid cloud environments.
* Troubleshoot Azure-to-on-prem network connectivity issues, optimizing performance and reliability.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### US LBM (Remote)

Lead Network Engineer (May 2023 – Nov 2024)

* Automated network operations, including configuration rollouts for Meraki switches, reducing deployment time by 40%.
* Developed Python and Ansible scripts to automate monitoring and alerting for network infrastructure, improving response time by 30%.
* Integrated Meraki Hardware into SolarWinds for streamlined tracking and performance analysis.
* Collaborated with cloud engineers to automate firewall rule requests, ensuring compliance and reducing manual errors.
* Led a network automation team, mentoring junior engineers and enhancing collaboration across IT teams.

### Smart Warehousing (Overland Park, KS)

Network Engineer (Apr 2022 - May 2023)

* Designed and implemented SD-WAN solutions, enhancing performance and reliability by 20%.
* Automated ServiceNow ticket creation and resolution for network incidents, reducing manual workload.
* Optimized network security by managing Palo Alto Firewalls and implementing IPSEC VPN tunnels for secure remote connectivity.
* Led network integration projects between AWS and on-premises environments.
* Developed automation scripts for firewall rule changes, improving compliance tracking and reducing errors.

### Ecco Select (Kansas City, MO)

Systems/Network Administrator (Jul 2019 - Apr 2022)

* Improved incident response times by 25% by automating monitoring and alerting using Splunk, Infoblox, and Zabbix.
* Managed and optimized Windows/Linux hybrid networks, ensuring 99.9% uptime.
* Developed Python scripts for network automation, reducing manual configuration effort.

### Wholestack Solutions (Kansas City, MO)

Cisco Operations Analyst (Aug 2017 - Sep 2018)

* Configured and maintained enterprise networks across LANs, VLANs, WANs, and VPNs, ensuring 99.5% availability.
* Deployed and secured Cisco networking equipment, enhancing system reliability by 20%.
* Assisted in network segmentation and optimization to improve security posture.

## CERTIFICATIONS

* AZ-700 (In Progress) – Microsoft Azure
* Practical Network Penetration Tester (In Progress) – TCM Security
* CCNA (In Progress)- Cisco
* CCNP (In Progress)- Cisco

## SIDE PROJECTS

### Algorithmic Trading and Low-Latency Network Optimization (Self-Directed Project)

* Designed an algorithmic trading bot using MACD, RSI, Bollinger Bands, and sentiment analysis to improve trading strategies via machine learning.
* Developed and tested latency-sensitive network configurations, applying knowledge of low-latency technologies such as OUCH and ITCH protocols.
* Gained expertise in FIX, multicast, and binary exchange protocols to support high-frequency trading systems.
* Advanced Python scripting for automation, network monitoring, and performance tuning in ultra-low latency environments.

## KEY SKILLS

* Network Automation & Optimization: Extensive experience in reducing operational workload through scripting and automation.
* Cloud Networking & Security: Hands-on experience integrating AWS, Azure, and GCP into enterprise networks.
* Collaboration & Problem-Solving: Effective communicator and mentor, working with distributed teams to drive innovation and efficiency.