

Eric Stearns

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SUMMARY

Experienced Network Engineer with 20 years in designing, deploying, and managing complex network infrastructures, specializing in Cisco, Aruba and Palo Alto technologies. Proven track record in optimizing network performance and security, with expertise in Meraki solutions, firewall configuration, and wireless network planning. Seeking to leverage extensive background in network engineering to contribute to innovative solutions and enhance connectivity.

WORK EXPERIENCE

ION X

Remote

Network Specialist

Apr 2025 - Nov 2025

- Monitored and maintained Meraki network infrastructure to ensure optimal performance and reliability.
- Managed Azure cloud-based printing services, facilitating seamless operation and user access.
- Administered phone number assignments in Microsoft Teams, enhancing unified communications.

Path Forward IT

Cincinnati, Ohio (Remote)

Network Engineer III

May 2022 - Feb 2025

- Monitored client networks with Auvik, ensuring optimal performance and security.
- Designed, built, and deployed firewalls and network infrastructures, specializing in Palo Alto solutions for SMB clients.
- Led Meraki engineering efforts, overseeing network configuration, management, and seamless installation of firewalls, switches, and routers on client sites.
- Developed wireless capacity plans using Ekahau software, optimizing wireless network performance and enhancing infrastructure reliability and capacity.

Monument Health

Rapid City, South Dakota

Network Engineer II

Oct 2014 - May 2022

- Engineered and managed Cisco ASA and Palo Alto firewalls, enhancing network security through advanced web filtering and client management.
- Led the migration from Microsoft DHCP and DNS to BlueCat, and provided training to IT staff, ensuring seamless transition and adoption.
- Designed and maintained LANs for new facilities and managed WAN routers, optimizing overall network infrastructure.
- Implemented and maintained OSPF and BGP routing protocols, and migrated routing from EIGRP to OSPF, improving routing efficiency.
- Directed infrastructure upgrades, including replacing Cisco ASA firewalls with Palo Alto, and assisted in transitioning to Aruba and Meraki solutions.

Sheridan Memorial Hospital

Sheridan, Wyoming

Network Engineer

Oct 2007 - Oct 2014

- Completed migration to Cisco Voice over IP and upgraded Cisco Call Manager and Unity, improving communication infrastructure.
- Redesigned LAN architecture and firewall implementation, enhancing network performance and security.
- Contributed to the development and implementation of a hospital-wide Electronic Medical Records system, including datacenter redesign for optimized performance.
- Mentored and trained new IT staff, fostering team skill development and knowledge transfer.

Microstar Computer Depot

Sr. Technician/Owner

Sheridan, Wyoming

May 2005 - Sep 2007

- Managed retail operations, computer repair services, and business system improvements, while maintaining high customer satisfaction through quality service and repeat business.
- Designed and executed a pioneering electronics recycling program and developed a multi-state wide area network (WAN) for a financial services client, providing comprehensive IT support and network management for local businesses.

EDUCATION

University of Phoenix

Bachelor of Science, Information Technology with Emphasis on Network and Telecom

Colorado State University

3 years, Mechanical Engineering

CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Microsoft	Expired
Microsoft Certified Professional, Microsoft	Expired
Cisco Certified Network Associate, Cisco	Active
Apple Certified iOS Technician, Apple	Expired
Palo Alto Certified Network Security Administrator, Palo Alto	Expired

SKILLS

Windows OS • Microsoft Server • Computer Hardware Repair and Replacement • Cisco Switching and Routing • Cisco ASA Firewall • Cisco Controller Based Wireless LAN • Cisco Nexus Switching • Palo Alto Firewalls • PFSense Firewall • BlueCat DNS/DHCP • Aruba CX OS • Aruba Switching • Cisco Meraki • Network Design • Firewall Configuration • Network Security