Ruben Salazar

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My Key Qualifications

- **CCNP Enterprise certified** with daily hands-on Cisco routing and switching plus Palo Alto firewall management.
- Led circuit turn-ups and **Meraki SD-WAN deployment across 9 sites**, with no cutover outage longer than 20 minutes.
- Cut monthly internet-edge Jira incidents from 14 to 8 by tuning **Palo Alto NAT, security policies, VLANs, and QoS**.
- Lowered average **MTTR from 52 to 31 minutes** on priority incidents using Datadog alerting and packet captures.
- Collaborated with the cloud team on **VPC route tables, Transit Gateway, and hybrid DNS**, cutting failover testing from 45 to 18 minutes.
- Automated firewall and switchport audits with **Python and Ansible**, saving 6 hours of manual review per month.
- Runs changes through **Jira and ServiceNow** in ticket-driven environments, including 41 switch replacements with zero rollbacks.

Experience

Network Engineer — **YETI**, outdoor products manufacturer and retailer

May 2023 – Present · 3 yrs 6 mos

- Led circuit turn-ups and Meraki SD-WAN deployment across 9 branch and warehouse sites, planning migrations and validating BGP and VPN failover so no site outage ran longer than 20 minutes during cutovers.
- Cut monthly network-related Jira incidents from 14 to 8 by tuning Palo Alto NAT and security policies, standardizing switch templates, and correcting mismatched VLAN and QoS settings at the internet edge.
- Lowered average MTTR for priority network incidents from 52 to 31 minutes using Datadog alerting, Wireshark packet captures, and documented RCA templates to speed diagnosis.
- Improved AWS connectivity resilience with the cloud team, updating VPC route tables, Transit Gateway attachments, and hybrid DNS validation procedures to cut failover testing time from 45 minutes to 18.
- Automated firewall object and switchport audits with Python scripts and Ansible playbooks that pull configs, compare against standards, and flag drift, saving about 6 hours of manual review per month.
- Design and support LAN, WAN, wireless, and internet edge infrastructure across office and distribution locations, managing Cisco routing and switching, Palo Alto firewalls, and site-to-site VPNs.

Network Administrator — **National Instruments**, an engineering software and test equipment company

Nov 2021 – Apr 2023 · 1 yr 5 mos

- Standardized switch configuration work for access-layer refreshes: completed 41 switch replacements across 3 buildings with zero rollback events, using tested templates for VLANs, STP, EtherChannel, and HSRP under the change management process.
- Tracked down the source of recurring voice and application latency complaints by collecting packet captures and correlating alerts in SolarWinds and PRTG, identifying 3 misconfigured QoS policies affecting 2 floors of users.
- Cut average DHCP and DNS investigation time from 35 minutes to 20 minutes per ticket by building a repeatable CLI and documentation checklist for lease, scope, and name-resolution issues.
- Supported Cisco routing, switching, DHCP, and wireless operations in a ticket-driven environment, implementing approved network changes and maintaining documentation in ServiceNow.
- Assisted with firewall updates and site-to-site VPN troubleshooting for office and lab environments.

Education

- **Texas State University** — Bachelor of Science in Computer Information Systems · 2017 – 2021

Skills

- **Routing, Switching & Firewalls:** Cisco Routing & Switching, Palo Alto Firewalls, BGP, OSPF, VLANs, QoS, STP, HSRP, NAT
- **SD-WAN & Cloud Networking:** Meraki SD-WAN, AWS Networking (VPC, Transit Gateway, Hybrid DNS), Site-to-Site VPNs
- **Monitoring & Troubleshooting:** Datadog, Wireshark, SolarWinds, PRTG, CLI Diagnostics
- **Automation & Operations:** Python, Ansible, REST APIs, Jira, ServiceNow

Certifications

- **Cisco Certified Network Professional Enterprise** – Cisco (2024)