

Chance Gearhart

Walla Walla, WA | chance.gearhart@gmail.com | <https://chancegearhart.com>

Senior IT Professional

Consulting | Systems Administration | Network Architecture Development | Cloud-Based Service Deployment

Senior IT professional who manages large-scale IT operations such as data center migrations and significantly improves cybersecurity by optimizing firewall configurations. Experienced network engineer with technical savvy spanning across system administration, network engineering and design, virtualization, security analysis, and data management. Recognized for skills in organizing data cabling installation and equipment documentation to improve continuous maintenance of physical server infrastructures. Strong people skills to communicate effectively on all levels.

Core Competencies:

Network Automation & Support	Documentation & Reporting	System Performance
Process Reengineering	Server Systems	Evaluation
Network & Systems Management	Administration	Vulnerability Management
Security Management	Systems Availability & Reliability	Patching & Maintenance
	Data Backup & Recovery	Mentoring & Coaching

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

EXPEDITORS INTERNATIONAL – Airway Heights, WA 2025 – Present
NETWORK ENGINEER

The Data Centers Network Engineer is responsible for the design and implementation of a large enterprise network with 350 locations and over 19k employees. As a member of a Data Centers' Networking Team, I design and integrate networks for new branches and data centers. I also configure, support and troubleshoot the Expeditors global and local networks. Wireless solutions include Cisco WLC's and Juniper MIST. Wired solutions include Cisco Nexus and HP/Aruba switching.

UMATILLA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE – Hermiston, OR 2020 – 2024
SYSTEM ADMINISTRATOR

Optimized Windows/Linux servers, administered VMWare and Proxmox environments, and implemented Docker for scalable and available application deployment. Monitored and enhanced IT network infrastructure using SolarWinds Orion, involving routers, switches, firewalls, VPNs, and zero trust networking. Conducted security assessments and optimized network operations, including IP management and VLAN configuration. Coached junior staff for optimal performance.

Key Contributions:

- **Reduced firewall rules from 1.6K to 400, simplifying management and enhancing cybersecurity infrastructure;** achieved this efficiency through detailed understanding and application of industry best practices
- **Pioneered documentation of complex server room connections involving 150 unique points, ensuring thorough records and operational continuity,** underscoring specialized knowledge and organizational impact of role

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER – Albuquerque, NM 2016 – 2019 NETWORK ENGINEER

Co-engineered network solutions as 1 of 2 lead engineers for the largest employer in Albuquerque, supporting over 7K employees and 30K+ customers weekly across hospital and academic facilities. Oversaw operation and security of 1K+ devices, ensuring robust support and connectivity for thousands of users across multiple locations. Championed improvements in IT environments through detailed analysis and documentation, educating stakeholders to build consensus and foster inclusive approach to transformative changes.

Key Contributions:

- Led strategic distribution of tasks and provided technical guidance to team of technicians and analysts, **enhancing workflow efficiency and problem-solving capabilities**
- Spearheaded cybersecurity initiative to harden IT equipment to comply with dynamic health security standards, **significantly strengthening protection of sensitive data**
- Managed ambitious 2-day migration of a 12-rack, 100-server data center, **minimizing operational downtime and expediting process by conducting comprehensive pre-work and resource allocation**
- Designed and implemented robust infrastructure components such as Ethernet, VLANs, QoS, and converged Voice & Data networks, **improving communication, telehealth, and televideo services to meet growing demands**
- **Optimized and secured network operations** using Cisco NXOS, IOS, etc and Juniper MX, EX, SRX, QFX and Pulse technologies, implementing Border Gateway Protocol and Domain Name System configurations for efficient data flow and cybersecurity

SAIC – Albuquerque, NM 2014 – 2015 COMPUTER INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIALIST

Contracted through SAIC to provide critical support at Sandia National Laboratories, a prominent Department of Defense contractor known for its historical contributions to national security, including The Manhattan Project. Focused on Non-Proliferation initiatives, enhancing security and documentation standards within nuclear defense operations.

Key Contributions:

- **Safeguarded national security** by implementing rigorous hardening processes for IT devices and systems
- **Revolutionized documentation practices by detailing all conceivable elements**, from network configurations to specifications of hardware components, crucial for operational integrity and required large-format plotting for detailed review
- **Left lasting impact on significantly improving system documentation and security**, ensuring infrastructure operated better and more maintained than upon hire

CRICKET COMMUNICATIONS – Albuquerque, NM 2012 – 2013 SECURITY ENGINEER

Led nationwide project to remediate network vulnerabilities and develop new security policies, enhancing system integrity and resilience. Engineered and implemented security measures and standardized protocols across network systems.

Key Contributions:

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- Significantly expedited update process of 1.2K+ Cisco routers, **completing project in 1.5 weeks compared to originally scheduled 6 months by reengineering existing procedures to streamline operations and enhance efficiency**

EARLY CAREER

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Santa Fe, NM

NETWORK SPECIALIST II

- **Achieved high distinction by scoring 97% on the Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) examination**, underscoring deep understanding and proficiency in networking technologies
- Gained experience in government IT operations, including response to high-profile assignments at the Governor's Mansion, demonstrating capability to **effectively manage sensitive and critical communications infrastructure**

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Applied Science, Information Security Systems | ITT Technical Institute

Bachelor of Applied Science, Electronics/Communications Engineering Technology | ITT Technical Institute

Associate of Applied Science, Computer/Electronics Engineering Technology | ITT Technical Institute

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Operating Systems: Linux (RedHat & CentOS); Windows Server

Virtualization & Containers: VMWare; Proxmox; Docker; Kubernetes

Networking: Routers, Switches & Firewalls; VPNs; Zero Trust Networking (Cloudflare); IP Address Management; VLANs; BGP; DNS; STP; Multicast; Network Performance Monitoring (SolarWinds Orion); Cisco & Juniper Networks; Palo Alto Networks

Security: Network Security; Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS) – Tipping Point; Firewalls – Checkpoint; Juniper RADIUS Authentication; Linux iptables

Data Management & Backup: Tape Backup Systems; Backup Exec; DCIM; DDI, IPAM

Additional Tools & Protocols: Common Internet File System (CIFS); Network File System (NFS); Network Information Service (NIS); Samba