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Professional Summary

Cybersecurity leader with over 25 years of experience delivering Managed Detection & Response (MDR) and Security Operations Centre (SOC) solutions across the Middle East, and UK. Expertise in SIEM, GRC, and compliance with ISO 27001, EU GDPR, and Saudi Arabia's NCA licensing framework, driving client ROI and regulatory alignment. Proven track record in leading global teams and high-profile projects, including the FIFA World Cup 2022.

Experience

Director MSSP Middle East (February 2023 - to date)

Obrela Arabia (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia)

Coordinating and leading the delivery of Managed Detection & Response services to clients in KSA and across the Middle East.

Overseeing MDR and SOC Threat Management services to meet customer SLAs and regional regulatory requirements.

Drive pre-sales to meet sales targets, regional goals and strategy for each financial year.

Head of Delivery for MSSP (July 2021 - January 2023)

Atos (Doha, Qatar)

Managed 3 SOC teams across Doha, Pune, and Bangalore, delivering MDR for 10+ clients in finance, telecommunications, and government.

Ensured compliance with MOI, QCF, and FIFA standards for FIFA World Cup 2022, reducing incident response time to meet customer SLAs.

Head of Cyber Defence & Security Operations (April 2020 - June 2021)

AI Futtaim (Festival Tower, Dubai, UAE)

Led SIEM and Threat Detection & Response (TDR) initiatives, establishing a SOC compliant with CIS and ISO 27001 standards.

Developed incident response playbooks using NIST and MITRE ATT&CK frameworks, improving response efficiency.

Mentored a team of analysts, fostering expertise in vulnerability management and forensics.

Technical Product Manager - Safety, Security & Compliance (August 2019 - March 2020)

Emirates Group (Emirates Group Headquarters, Dubai, UAE)

Guided cybersecurity product owners in developing technical controls to be compliant with aviation security regulations.

Collaborated with SOC to deploy security products, improving Emirates Group security posture across all lines of business.

Senior Business Analyst (March 2016 – August 2019)

Emirates Group (Emirates Group Technology Centre, Dubai, UAE)

Technical management and leadership for the analysis and delivery of a Cyber Security Operations Centre.

Conduit between SOC and DPO to deliver essential cybersecurity controls to meet EU GDPR compliance.

Provided full life cycle expertise in the design, development, integration, testing of the SOC.

Senior Business Analyst (March 2015 – March 2016)

dnata (Emirates Group Headquarters, Dubai, UAE)

Delivered a GRC platform for dnata's safety data system across UAE and 8+ international outstations, enhancing compliance reporting by over 50%.

Solutions Architect (November 2011 – March 2015)

Mibtree Ltd (Bedfordshire, UK)

Led solution design and IT security for clients like Vodafone, UBS, Virgin Media, Network Rail Telecom, OmanTel, and Oman Airports.

Early Career (1995–2011)

Held roles including Principal Consultant (IBM Business Partners: Innovise, Abilitec), IT Manager (Maxon Computer), and Systems Administrator / Software Developer (HiSOFT), delivering IT security, solutions architecture, and technical pre-sales across EMEA. Key projects included UBS, T-Systems, HBL, Wateen, and Mobilink.

Education

University of Bedfordshire, UK - Computer Science, BSc Hons (1992-1995)
Luton College, UK - National Diploma in Computer Studies (1990-1992)

Accreditations

Palo Alto Sales Product Specialist - XDR, in 2025

IBM QRadar Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Technical Sales Intermediate, in 2024

IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Sales Foundation, in 2024

IBM QRadar Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) Sales Foundation, in 2024

Multiple IBM Security and Tivoli Certifications (2007–2014)
Micromuse Netcool Certified Consultant, in 2005

Awards

Atos Silver Award, Certificate of Excellence (2022)
Atos Silver Accolade, Onsite Task Force Team - Qatar QR SOC (2021)
Emirates Group Programme of the Year Runner-Up, GDPR (2018–2019)
Emirates Group Najm Silver, dnata Safety Hub (2017)

Skills

Cybersecurity Tools: QRadar, Splunk, ArcSight, Taegis, LogRhythm, Cortex
Frameworks: ISO 27001, NIST, EU GDPR, MITRE ATT&CK, KSA NCA
Technical: Linux, SQL, ITIL v3
Leadership: SOC management, pre-sales, mentoring

Interests and Activities

Karate (40 years experience), keeping fit, motorsport and technology.

References

Available on request