Hiba Elfaki

Network Security & Cloud Infrastructure Engineer

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia | hiba.s.s103@gmail.com | +966 50 820 6290

LinkedIn | Credly | Portfolio

PROFILE

Network security and cloud infrastructure engineer with 4+ years of experience designing, deploying and supporting Fortinet-based security for client networks, alongside AWS infrastructure built with Terraform and CloudFormation. Hands-on with FortiGate (HA, IPsec/SSL VPN, SD-WAN, ZTNA), FortiMail, FortiWeb and FortiClient EMS. Fortinet NSE 7, AWS Solutions Architect Associate and AWS CloudOps Associate certified. Runs an independent Fortinet consulting practice (since 2023) covering migrations, high availability and VPN deployments.

CERTIFICATIONS

- Fortinet NSE 7 – Enterprise Firewall 7.6 Administrator (FCSS), 2025; valid through December 2027
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate, 2024
- AWS Certified CloudOps Engineer – Associate
- Fortinet FortiGate 7.2 Administrator (NSE 4 / FCP), 2023
- Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA – Routing & Switching), 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Fortinet:** FortiGate (deployment, FGCP HA clustering, firmware upgrades, policy troubleshooting, VIP/DNAT, security profiles, application and web filtering, SD-WAN, SSL deep inspection), FortiMail, FortiWeb (WAF), FortiAnalyzer, FortiClient EMS, ZTNA, Security Fabric, FortiToken MFA
- **Network Security:** IPsec site-to-site and SSL remote-access VPN, DMZ design, GateProtect firewalls, IDS/IPS, WAF, MFA, SSL/TLS certificates and PKI
- **Networking:** Cisco switches and routers (VLANs, inter-VLAN routing, trunking, OSPF, BGP), TCP/IP, DNS and DHCP, packet capture and traffic analysis
- **AWS Cloud:** EC2, VPC, Security Groups, Elastic IP, S3 and EBS (lifecycle policies), RDS, Lambda, CloudFront, Application Load Balancers, IAM least-privilege roles, CloudWatch, CodePipeline
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, CloudFormation, AWS SAM
- **Identity & Systems:** Active Directory and Group Policy, Microsoft 365 and SharePoint administration; Windows, Linux (OS level)
- **Scripting:** Python, Bash
- **Delivery:** Requirements gathering, high-level and low-level design, network diagrams and as-built documentation, acceptance testing, handover, POC demos, technical presentations, Fortinet TAC case escalation

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Network and Firewall Consultant **Jun 2023 – Present**

- Design and deploy FortiGate solutions for SMB clients, including migrations, FGCP HA clusters with failover testing, firmware upgrades and VPN deployments.
- Implement IPsec site-to-site and SSL remote-access VPNs with MFA (FortiToken) on remote access.
- Configure FortiGate SD-WAN with performance SLAs and automatic link failover across dual-ISP sites.
- Design DMZs that publish public services through VIP/DNAT behind restrictive inbound policies.
- Gather client requirements, advise on security posture through firewall hardening and best practices, present solution designs and scope proofs of concept with demos.
- Troubleshoot performance and security issues using packet capture and traffic analysis, with centralized logging in FortiAnalyzer; escalate unresolved cases to Fortinet TAC through to resolution.
- Produce high-level and low-level design documents, network diagrams and as-built documentation; complete acceptance testing and handover for every deployment.

IT Support & Network Administrator **Feb 2025 – Present**

Saud Al-Assady Law Firm, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

- Act as the sole IT and security point of contact, ensuring system availability and data protection.
- Implemented secure remote access for employees, improving operational continuity and reducing downtime.
- Manage Active Directory, including user access, group policies and security controls.
- Maintain the Microsoft 365 and SharePoint environment with a focus on access security and data protection, with MFA enforced on user accounts.
- Troubleshoot network and security issues, reducing recurring incidents through proactive monitoring.

Network Security Engineer **May 2022 – Jun 2023**
USETECH Co. Ltd., Khartoum, Sudan

- Diagnosed and resolved issues across 50+ firewalls, network devices and web application firewalls (FortiGate, GateProtect, FortiWeb), reducing downtime by 60%.
- Designed and implemented 5+ secure VPN solutions for remote access and inter-branch connectivity.
- Led the migration of FortiMail systems with zero downtime.
- Configured ZTNA access policies and deployed FortiClient EMS within the Fortinet Security Fabric.
- Configured and maintained Cisco switches and routers alongside security appliances in mixed-vendor environments.
- Upgraded security devices and applied patches to maintain protection against evolving threats.
- Delivered workarounds for complex network challenges, increasing network efficiency, security and uptime by 30% and reducing troubleshooting time by 40%; completed acceptance testing and handover documentation.

Technical Support Intern **Oct 2021 – Nov 2021**
Sudanese Civil Aviation Authority, Khartoum, Sudan

- Supported 10+ departments, resolving 200+ user issues and improving system performance and uptime by 15%.

Technical Support Intern **Aug 2021 – Oct 2021**
Khartoum International Airport, Khartoum, Sudan

- Contributed to network segmentation and infrastructure build-out; resolved 300+ connectivity and hardware issues, reducing downtime by 30%.

CLOUD PROJECTS

- Deployed EC2 infrastructure with CloudFormation and serverless resources with AWS SAM and Terraform.
- Reduced EC2 running cost using Lambda functions with EventBridge scheduling.
- Built a CodePipeline delivery flow from GitHub to S3 with CloudFront distribution; host a personal portfolio site on S3 behind CloudFront.
- Delivered a client demo of a PHP/Laravel web application on Elastic Beanstalk with a MySQL database.
- Converted CloudWatch events into CSV reporting output using Python.

EDUCATION

Sudan University of Science and Technology, Khartoum, Sudan **Dec 2020**
Bachelor of Engineering (Honors) in Electronics Engineering (Computer and Networks)

LANGUAGES

Arabic (native) | English (fluent) | Turkish (basic)