

NIC Zhou

Network | Infra & Cloud | Cybersecurity

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Summary

IT Specialist certified in CCNA, Network+, Security+, A+, CIOS, and CSIS – on paper.

Hands-on experience precedes and exceeds: Life-long technologist who has built, secured, optimized high-capacity servers, high-performance workstations, and high-throughput networks – practically running a mini data center at home: mdia.xyz/Topology.png

Where theory and practice converge is where a resourceful IT Specialist thrives.

Core Competencies

Network Architecture: Scalable, redundant LAN/WAN/SDN topology design, OSI, TCP/IP

Network Routing & Switching: Static, EIGRP, OSPF & Etherchannel, STP, VTP, CDP, VLANs

IP services: DHCP, DNS, NAT, ARP, ICMP, SNMP, SSH, SFTP, SCP, VPN

Infrastructure: Building, Cooling, Testing, Maintaining Workstations and Servers.

Virtualization: Proxmox is free and open-source, out-performs VMware ESXi in 56/57 tests.

Cloud: Deployment and management of Linux & Windows servers on AWS, Azure, Linode and other vendors in full-time production environments.

Cybersecurity: Firewall, 0 trust, Access control, E2EE communication, Data Encryption in-transit and at-rest.

Certification

[Cisco CCNA](#): Cisco-Certified. The lineage of the modern internet as we know it.

[CompTIA Network+](#): Network fundamentals, vendor-agnostic and cross-platform.

[CompTIA Security+](#): Foundational Cybersecurity cert, vendor-neutral, battle-hardened.

[CompTIA A+](#): The most recognized IT cert, hardware, software and a side of IT support.

[CompTIA CIOS](#): Validates abilities in managing and optimizing IT operations.

[CompTIA CSIS](#): Validates skills in supporting and securing IT infrastructure.

Education

SFU

Arts and Social Science

BCIT

New Media and Web

CICCC

Network and System Solutions Specialist

Experience

Maple Leaf Music School
IT Intern

Burnaby, BC

Had a hand in many aspects, product design, web design, audio video production, taught music lessons and tested music instruments.

Faraway Strategic Media Group
System Admin

2022-Current, Remote

Managed Windows and Linux servers and workstations in China (difficult), Asia, Oceania, Europe and North America. Maintained up-time despite challenging environments.

Research, test, deploy, update Software.

Encrypt, backup and sync company data, periodic.

IT consulting, seldom, high impact.

Regular photo, video, text editing.

Occasional translation, subtitling.

Projects

Home lab:
mdia.xyz/Topology.png

-Custom water-cooled Render machine, combined CPU+GPU TDP of 850 (400+450) Watts

Some insist it is 'political' that advanced builds such as watercooling must be DIY, because with ownership comes responsibilities.

Confident to handle hardware, admin software and support users for you. Whether physically on-prem or logically in-cloud.

-Layer3, Network Layer is powered by pfSense running on an industrial mini-pc.

Always had the rational fear of guests mis-using my public IP, solution? I routed the entire guest network through VPN.

Side note however, cybersecurity often is ineffective in protecting one from physical threats.

-Lost important progress to power outage before, now equipped with 4 UPSs.

Side note, power outage is a simple effective, low-skill denial-of-service.