AZEEM ABDUL LATHEEF, CISSP

+1(612) 516-6443 | azeem1001@gmail.com

linkedin.com/in/azeemabdullatheef | azeemsecurity.com

Washington, DC Metro Area

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Security Architect with 15+ years of experience designing, securing, and operating enterprise-scale security environments across on-premises, hybrid, and cloud platforms. Deep expertise in Zero Trust / SASE, Palo Alto Networks, Zscaler ZIA & ZPA, and large-scale user migrations. Proven ability to translate complex security requirements into practical architecture decisions that balance risk reduction, regulatory compliance, and business agility.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Security Architecture & Zero Trust: Enterprise Security Architecture | Zero Trust / SASE Strategy | Network Segmentation (North-South & East-West) | Secure Access Design
SASE & Secure Access (Zscaler): ZIA | ZPA | ZDX | App Connector Architecture | Cloud Connector (ZCC) Integration | GRE/IPSec Traffic Forwarding | SSL Inspection Strategy
Next-Generation Firewall Platforms: Palo Alto NGFW & Panorama | Check Point (Migration & Optimization) | Firewall HA Design | Virtual Routing & Forwarding (VRF)
Policy Engineering & Governance: Enterprise Rule Base Modernization | Service-to-App-ID Transformation | NAT & Decryption Policies | Change Governance & Audit Readiness
Cloud & Hybrid Security: Microsoft Azure Security Architecture | PA-VM Deployment | Hybrid Connectivity | Secure Cloud Segmentation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Lead – Network & Cloud Security | LTM (Client: IMF) *Washington DC | Hybrid | Aug 2021 – Present*

- Led enterprise wide Zero Trust architecture initiatives using Zscaler to modernize secure access and reduce reliance on legacy VPN and proxy models.
- Designed policy-driven access controls aligned with identity, device posture, and application context, supporting distributed enterprise users.
- Defined traffic forwarding, SSL inspection strategies, and secure access patterns for offices, data centers, and remote users.
- Redesigned legacy network-level access into application-level segmentation, aligning access decisions with Zero Trust principles and business risk.
- Executed large-scale migration from legacy proxy/VPN (Ivanti, Squid) to Zscaler with zero business disruption.
- Managed Zscaler Client Connector across Windows, macOS, iOS, and iPadOS with device posture checks, certificate trust, and policy-based access controls.
- Led migration from Check Point Maestro to Palo Alto NGFW, converting legacy rule base and validating policy enforcement with zero production impact.
- Designed and standardized Palo Alto NGFW architecture for high-availability connectivity; led Checkpoint to Palo Alto migration including rule cleanup, NAT redesign, and App-ID enablement.
- Migrated legacy port-based firewall policies to application-aware security rules using Palo Alto App-ID, improving policy accuracy and reducing attack surface.
- Managed and optimized 10k+ security rules across multi-datacenter Palo Alto NGFW deployments by eliminating redundant and shadowed rules, reducing rule base size by 30%, and improving policy enforcement efficiency.
- Partnered with application and cloud teams to enable secure on-prem to Azure migrations; provided architectural leadership in a highly regulated environment aligned with business risk and compliance requirements.
- Deployed Vectra AI NDR to enhance east-west traffic visibility, replacing legacy IPS/IDS and improving threat detection across hybrid environments.

Senior Security Engineer | Iron Bow Technologies*Herndon, VA | May 2021 – Aug 2021*
- Implemented Proofpoint Security Awareness Training (PSAT) platform; assessed phishing simulation vendors including Terranova, PhishMe, and Proofpoint.
- Managed password rotation for privileged/admin accounts via Password State; remediated vulnerabilities using Tenable with cross-functional teams.
- Evaluated CrowdStrike, Zscaler, and Okta integrations to architect Zero Trust implementation across the enterprise network.

Senior Security Consultant – Network & Cloud Security | LTI (Client: IMF)*Washington DC | Apr 2017 – May 2021*
- Managed and maintained enterprise security controls: Palo Alto & Checkpoint firewalls, IPS/IDS, proxies, FireEye sandboxing (EX/NX/MAS), and ForeScout NAC.
- Deployed and maintained Checkpoint firewalls on Azure Cloud. Assisted application teams migrating workloads from premises to cloud.
- Deployed Checkpoint Maestro architecture; upgraded Checkpoint management and firewalls from R77.30 to R80.30; upgraded Websense proxy environment.
- Investigated malware callbacks, suspicious traffic, and malicious activity using FireEye sandboxing and SIEM analysis.

Senior Security Engineer | Comcast Corporation*New Jersey | Feb 2014 – Mar 2017*
- Subject Matter Expert for proxy URL content filtering, IPS/IDS, FireEye NX/MX, Tufin Secure Track, and Backbox configuration management.
- Reviewed IPS processes and addressed gaps related to HIPAA and PCI compliance; integrated IPS with ControlMinder for local account authentication.
- Implemented and maintained Juniper SSL VPN for vendor access; managed Aruba RAP provisioning and troubleshooting.
- Conducted firewall rule cleanup, identified unused/disabled/duplicate objects, and documented RCAs for outages using Tufin.

IT Security Analyst | Tata Consultancy Services (Client: Target Corporation)*Minneapolis, MN | Nov 2010 – Jan 2014*
- Performed incident handling and threat intelligence analysis using ArcSight, FireEye, Splunk, and IBM X-Force / VSOC portal.
- Conducted network vulnerability assessments; communicated findings with CVSS scoring from the NVD; developed remediation plans and security procedures.
- Analyze malware using FireEye and Virus Total. Created malware response plans and coordinated POS PCI compliance processes with the POS team.
- Worked with Symantec DLP, Cisco IronPort, Archer GRC, and Security Center 4 (Nessus) for daily security operations and compliance reporting.

EDUCATION

Master of Computer Applications (MCA), Computer Science*Easwari Engineering College, Anna University | 2004–2007*
Bachelor of Science, Computer Science*SRM Arts and Science College, Madras University | 2001–2004*

CERTIFICATIONS

CISSP | ZDTA (Zscaler Digital Transformation Administrator) | CEH | PCNSE | AZ-500 (Azure Security) | ITIL | CCNA Security | TCSE-2014 (Tufin Certified Security Expert)