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Summary

My Name is Saqib Muhammad and I am an IT Professional with over 12+ years of experience in Infrastructure & Cloud Administration, IT Audit and Information Security and I served as an IT Manager and IS Auditor, specializing in Information Technology Operations at a globally recognized firm of chartered accountants. With extensive experience in strategic security management, risk assessment, and the integration of cutting-edge technologies, I effectively managed complex IT environments and ensured compliance with industry standards. Additionally, as the pioneering Field Tech Engineer for Akamai Technologies in Pakistan, I played a key role in managing data centers and technical infrastructure.

Certification

- ISO 27K Lead Auditor In Progress
- CISA (Certified Information System Auditor)
- MCT (Microsoft Certified Trainer)
- MCSE (Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert) : Cloud Platform and Infrastructure
- MCSA (Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate): Windows Server
- CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate)
- MD-102 Microsoft 365 Certified: Endpoint Administrator Associate
- AZ-500 Microsoft Certified: Azure Security Engineer Associate
- MS-500 Microsoft 365 Certified: Security Administrator Associate
- AZ-104 Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate
- MS-900 Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals
- AZ-900 Microsoft 365 Certified: Fundamentals

Training

- ISO/IEC 27001:2022 LA & LI
- Certified Information System Auditor
- Microsoft 365 Administrator Expert
- Microsoft 365 Endpoint Administrator
- Microsoft Azure Administrator
- Microsoft 365 Security Administrator
- Microsoft certified system associate
- Microsoft certified system expert
- Cisco certified network associate)
- Cisco certified network professional)
- Check Point Certified Security Administrator
- Fortinet Certified Network Security Administrator

Experience

05/2025 – Current ***IT Director,* Muhammad Abbas & Co. (Chartered Accountants)**

- Formation & Review of “Information Security Policies & Procedures” in line with best practices.
- IT General Computer Controls and Application Control Testing.
- Measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of IT processes.
- IT performance is measured & monitored.
- IT investments are adequately controlled and monitored.
- Review applications and associated artifacts of the underlying Operating Systems, Databases, Network Infrastructure Security and Cloud Security.
- Compliance Reviews and Implementation of ISO 27001:2013, COBIT and ITIL.
- Data Migration reviews.
- Evaluate risk, document processes & systems in the flowchart, narrative form & design audit program;
- Third-party assessment reviews.
- Risk Assessment reviews included in the security risk assessment process for compliance and risk mitigation.
- Post Implementation & Functionality reviews of ERPs (SAP, Oracle Financials, & Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012).

08/2022 - Current ***Field Tech Engineer, Akamai Technologies - Freelance/Remote***

- Understanding the layout, design, and operational principles of data centers.
- Expertise in installing, configuring, and maintaining data center hardware such as servers, network devices, and storage systems.
- Familiarity with SLAs, ensuring uptime and performance commitments are met.
- Proficiency in installing, managing, and troubleshooting cabling systems, including copper and fiber optic cables.
- High level of accuracy in executing tasks, with a focus on preventing and resolving issues.
- Experience with Servers, including setup, maintenance, and troubleshooting.
- Broad knowledge of server hardware and software, including installation, configuration, and maintenance.
- Skills in configuring and managing network switches for data flow management within the data center.
- Experience using ticketing systems for tracking and resolving issues efficiently.
- Proficiency in installing and managing server racks, ensuring proper organization and airflow.
- Knowledge in structured cabling systems to support data center operations.

- Strong problem-solving skills to identify and resolve hardware and network issues quickly.
- Comprehensive IT knowledge to support various data center operations and technologies.
- Ability to maintain detailed documentation of configurations, installations, and procedures.
- Expertise in working with optical fiber cables, including installation, testing, and troubleshooting.

08/2022 - 07/2024 ***IT Security Lead and IT Auditor,*** **Grant Thornton Anjum Rahman -** ***Full time***

- Conduct cybersecurity awareness campaigns in the Organization. Engage all stake holders of the company.
- Manage Info Sec dept and develop cybersecurity in-house team.
- Effectively communicated cybersecurity strategies to stakeholders.
- Collaborate with experts to create and implement system security solutions
- Build relationships with key individuals across teams to raise awareness and influence security strategy.
- Played a critical part in a law enforcement agency to develop and implement digital and manual information security best practices, worked closely with the stakeholders and produced Policies, procedures and standards—security by design product development.
- IT General Computer Controls and Application Control Testing.
- Measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of IT processes.
- IT performance is measured & monitored.
- IT investments are adequately controlled and monitored.
- Review applications and associated artifacts of the underlying Operating Systems, Databases, Network Infrastructure Security and Cloud Security.
- Compliance Reviews and Implementation of NIST, ISO 27001:2013, COBIT and ITIL.
- Data Migration reviews.
- Evaluate risk, document processes & systems in the flowchart, narrative form & design audit program;
- Third-party assessment reviews.
- Risk Assessment reviews included in the security risk assessment process for compliance and risk mitigation.
- Post Implementation & Functionality reviews of ERPs (SAP, Oracle Financials, & Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012).
- Conducted IT/IS Risk Assessments and developed Cybersecurity Frameworks, performing Gap Analyses aligned with ISO standards (ISO 27001, 27005, 27017, 27018, 27035).
- Worked on refreshing the SOC, identified areas of improvement, and reviewed the incident response process and runbooks Playbooks

- Collaborated closely with the program manager to develop and review the overall security infrastructure, aligning with industry best practices
- Engaged with business stakeholders to ensure compliance with ISO27001, NIST, and CIS Top security controls
- Worked collaboratively with application owners to implement robust incident response plans, minimising downtime and mitigating potential data breaches
- Conducted thorough reviews of network architecture and configurations, proposing optimisations and information security recommendations.

08/2018 - 08/2022 ***Information Technology Administrator,*** **Grant Thornton Anjum Rahman -** ***Full time***

- Managed server infrastructure and virtualization environments, including OS deployments and high-availability IT operations.
- Performed end-to-end installation, configuration, and maintenance of IT systems, both hardware and software, across diverse environments.
- Ensured consistently high availability of IT services, with expertise in AD DS, DNS, File Servers, Windows Server, desktop support, network support, and VoIP systems.
- Implemented, secured, and administered local and remote infrastructure for various client industries, supporting both on-premises and cloud solutions.
- Managing and maintaining firewalls, including CheckPoint and Fortinet, with strong understanding of network security principles.
- Configured, managed, and troubleshooted Microsoft Exchange Server, Azure Active Directory, Microsoft 365/Office 365, and Microsoft Azure environments.
- Administered production servers and workstations, including configuration, monitoring, and patch management.
- Conducted security audits to ensure adherence to company policies and regulatory standards.
- Designed and executed Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plans.
- Tested and validated disaster recovery plans to ensure data resilience.
- Designed and implemented hardware/software solutions to close identified security gaps.

01/2022 - Current ***Founder and Expert in Information Security, IS Audit, VA, GRC, Cloud & Infrastructure, MST Services Pakistan - Self employed***

- Led the development and implementation of organization-wide security strategies and programs to protect critical assets, data, and operations against evolving cyber threats.
- Conducted detailed risk assessments, identifying vulnerabilities and developing risk mitigation plans to improve enterprise-wide security.

- Developed, implemented, and enforced information security policies, procedures, and standards in alignment with regulatory frameworks (ISO 27001, NIST).
- Established incident response plans and led incident handling activities, ensuring rapid detection, investigation, and resolution of security events.
- Utilized threat intelligence tools and real-time monitoring systems to proactively detect and prevent cyber threats across the IT landscape.
- Designed and delivered organization-wide security awareness training programs, promoting a culture of cybersecurity and risk awareness.
- Managed network and infrastructure security, including configuration and administration of firewalls, IDS/IPS systems, and access controls.
- Implemented robust data protection strategies, including encryption, DLP solutions, and access control mechanisms, ensuring compliance with GDPR and CCPA.
- Defined and maintained secure architecture for IT systems and applications, integrating security into system design and development processes.
- Conducted third-party risk assessments and enforced security controls for vendors and service providers, including audits and compliance checks.
- Managed vulnerability assessment and penetration testing activities, prioritizing remediation actions based on risk impact and business continuity.
- Led internal and external security audits, compiling findings, presenting remediation strategies to leadership, and ensuring audit readiness.
- Evaluated and implemented cutting-edge security technologies and tools to bolster defensive capabilities and enable threat prevention.
- Worked collaboratively with cross-functional teams (IT, Legal, HR, Executive) to align security initiatives with business priorities.
- Served as a trusted advisor to senior leadership on cybersecurity strategies, regulatory updates, and risk posture assessments.
- Promoted continuous improvement by regularly reviewing and enhancing security processes, staying informed on emerging threats and industry trends.

09/2020 - Current ***Founder & Microsoft Certified Trainer, Skills Share Hub - Self employed***

- Delivering high-quality training sessions for various Microsoft technologies and certifications.
- Developing and updating training materials to reflect the latest Microsoft updates and best practices.
- Designing and creating comprehensive training programs and course content tailored to various audiences and skill levels.

- Interacting with clients to understand their training needs and customize solutions accordingly.
- Providing expert advice and guidance to help clients achieve their certification goals.
- Conducting live training sessions, webinars, and workshops, both in-person and online.
- Utilizing interactive teaching methods to enhance learning and engagement.
- Assisting learners in preparing for Microsoft certification exams through targeted practice sessions and study materials.
- Demonstrating in-depth knowledge of Microsoft products and technologies, including Microsoft 365, Azure, and Windows Server.
- Staying updated with industry trends and technological advancements to provide relevant training.
- Collecting and analyzing feedback from training participants to continuously improve the training experience and content.
- Building and nurturing a community of learners and professionals interested in Microsoft technologies.
- Sharing knowledge and best practices through blogs, forums, and social media.
- Contributing to the growth and strategic direction of Skills Share Hub by identifying new opportunities and partnerships.
- Managing part-time staff and collaborating with other trainers to expand the training offerings.

08/2016 - 08/2018 ***Information Technology Officer,*** **Grant Thornton Anjum Rahman -** ***Full time***

- Provided technical support and troubleshooting for desktops, laptops, LANs, and remote access systems.
- Deployed and configured PCs, workstations, and laptops with various Windows operating systems (XP, Vista, 7, 8, 8.1, 10).
- Installed and configured RAID arrays and Windows Server editions (2003, 2008, 2012, 2016).
- Delivered accurate root-cause analysis and resolutions for hardware/software incidents.
- Responded to client hardware issues and maintained effective communication throughout the resolution process.
- Implemented, monitored, and improved automated data backup solutions for over 100 clients, using industry-standard tools (constituting ~60% of daily tasks).
- Procured IT hardware and services, maintaining accurate documentation for the billing department.

- Installed, configured, and maintained in-house and remote servers including virtual servers, domain controllers, mail servers, and ISA proxy/firewall systems.
- Maintained 24x7 VPN connectivity between client sites, ensuring secure and stable remote access.
- Diagnosed and resolved issues related to local/internet networks and server infrastructure.
- Configured and maintained automatic backup systems for critical business data (documents, emails, databases, source code).
- Monitored daily backup operations and enforced strict controls over data transfers, both online and via removable media (USBs, CDs/DVDs, external drives).

06/2012 - 12/2021 ***Microsoft Certified Trainer / System and Network,*** **Corvit System -** ***Full time***

- Provided functional and technical support for end-user computing environments, including desktop, laptop, LAN, and remote systems. Diagnosed and resolved hardware and software issues, ensuring minimal disruption to business operations.
- Deployed and configured PCs, workstations, and laptops across the organization, including OS installations for Windows XP/Vista/7/8/8.1/10.
- Installed and configured RAID and operating systems for Windows Server 2003/2008/2012/2016 environments.
- Delivered root-cause analysis and effective solutions for hardware/software problems.
- Responded to customer support calls regarding desktop hardware issues and service requests.
- Managed and automated data backup systems for over 100 clients, leveraging industry-standard tools (60% of daily operations).
- Procured IT hardware, software, and services for clients and ensured accurate documentation for billing purposes.
- Installed, configured, and maintained both in-house and remote servers, including mail servers, virtual servers, domain controllers, ISA firewalls, proxy servers, and networking devices (switches, routers, modems).
- Performed routine server administration, security audits, and compliance checks against internal policies and government regulations.
- Conducted IT infrastructure monitoring, covering production servers, network devices, storage, voice/data paths, and ensured end-to-end issue resolution.
- Recommended system improvements and capacity planning strategies to management.

- Ensured secure system configurations, developed IT security policies and documented IT procedures.
- Implemented and maintained automatic backup solutions for critical assets (emails, databases, documents, source code).
- Tested and verified disaster recovery plans regularly.
- Maintained 24x7 VPN connectivity between client locations and resolved network (LAN/internet) and server issues.
- Enforced data leakage prevention measures by monitoring data transfer via internet and removable media (USBs, CDs/DVDs, external HDDs).
- Proactively monitored for security breaches, malware, intrusion attempts, and ensured proper mitigation.
- Created and maintained secure IT environments through implementation of both hardware and software-based security controls.
- Experienced in remote management tools and familiar with VoIP systems infrastructure.

Education and Training

BS, **Information Technology**
Virtual University of Pakistan

Skills

- IT Governance
- Risk Management
- Cybersecurity Frameworks
- Business continuity Planning
- Compliance Management
- Network Security
- Application Security
- Stakeholder Communication
- Process Improvements
- Information Security Awareness
- Data Migration
- GDRP Compliance
- PCI DSS Compliance
- Datacenter technologies
- Firewall deployment and Management
- Cloud security
- Azure
- AWS
- SOC operation and management
- Security/Firewalls Technology: IPSec, VPNs, Cryptography, AAA Model, Access Lists, CDN, DDoS, WAF, IAM

Accomplishments

- Security compliance, audit and assessment
- Internal and external compliance against best practices ISO27001 Security compliance, audit and assessment
- Internal and external compliance against best practices
- Assessment against ISO27K, ISO31K, PCI-DSS, PSR, NZISM, SWIFT (CSP), NIST, SANS, CIS, OWASP, SOC2
- Risk Management: Create policies, procedure, guidelines and standards Risk and control framework development
- Risk assessment
- Cyber maturity assessments
- Third part risk assessments
- Business Continuity/ Disaster Recovery: BCP/DRP Plan development and enablement
- BIA and RA creation
- BIA/DRC maturity assessment
- Cyber Security: SOC, SIEM (Microsoft Sentinel), Vulnerability Scanning, Email Gateway Security, NetShark, Web Analyser, NetProfiler, HP Arc sight and ISO27001

References

Reference: will be provided upon request.