

## David Cox

### Senior Network Architect

#### Contact Information:

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#### Professional Summary

Seasoned Senior Network Architect with over 20 years of hands-on experience in designing and implementing resilient, scalable enterprise solutions. I've led efforts to modernize IT infrastructures, architect hybrid cloud solutions, and optimize performance through advanced virtualization and network technologies. I'm adept at driving cross-functional collaboration to meet strategic goals, with a proven track record in cybersecurity, regulatory compliance, and risk management. As an Azure-certified professional, I leverage multi-cloud environments like AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud to deliver innovative, cost-efficient solutions. My focus has always been on developing robust systems that enhance operational efficiency and ensure long-term scalability.

#### Core Competencies

- Enterprise Architecture & Cloud Integration: Deep expertise in multi-cloud strategies (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) and hybrid environments.
- Network Architecture & Advanced Connectivity: Skilled in designing and optimizing on-premises and cloud-based networks, including LAN, WAN, SD-WAN, vWAN, ExpressRoute, and secure VPN connections.
- Cybersecurity & Risk Management: Implemented Zero Trust frameworks, PIM, PAM, and encryption protocols to bolster security.
- IT Infrastructure Modernization: Led system upgrades using cutting-edge tools like BICEP and Infrastructure as Code (IaC).
- Performance Optimization & Metrics: Committed to ensuring uptime and reliability through performance analytics and proactive monitoring.
- Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity: Experienced in developing recovery plans with automated backups and failover strategies.
- Project & Team Leadership: Proven ability to manage cross-functional teams and foster high performance and collaboration.
- Compliance & Regulatory Adherence: Expertise in meeting industry standards and ensuring operational compliance.

## Professional Experience

### *Senior Network Architect*

Sterling Bank & Trust, Southfield, Michigan

Dec 2021 – Present

- Led the modernization of our enterprise infrastructure, championing the adoption of SD-WAN, Enterprise PKI, modern authentication with Entra ID, and industry-standard frameworks for cloud architecture, data governance, and endpoint management. These efforts aligned IT capabilities with strategic goals and built a robust foundation for future scalability.
- Designed a dual-region active/active Azure Virtual Desktop solution following Azure's Well-Architected Framework. This provided users access to over a dozen remote applications and fully virtualized desktops, replacing an aging Citrix VDI system. We increased overall availability from 99.9% to 99.998% and reduced operational costs by over 30%, significantly enhancing user productivity.
- Engineered a multi-region Azure Cloud tenant tailored to the bank's needs, adhering to Azure's Well-Architected and Cloud Adoption frameworks. Using BICEP to define Infrastructure as Code (IaC), we enabled automated deployment of segmented landing zones with policy enforcement and guardrails. This improved deployment efficiency by 30% and ensured seamless compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Connected corporate HQ, disaster recovery sites, and branch offices to multiple Azure regions through ExpressRoute circuits and failover IPSEC VPN Site-to-Site connections. Leveraged Azure vWAN to create a resilient mesh network topology that maintained 99.9999% uptime, reducing latency by 20% and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery.
- Developed and implemented a comprehensive suite of baseline policies and procedures, including Entra conditional access, RBAC, Active Directory group policies, Intune compliance settings, and M365 Defender data protection policies. These measures transformed the bank's security and compliance posture, improving our FFIEC rating from a 5 to a 2 within three years.
- Partnered with the CISO and Enterprise Risk Management teams to enforce advanced IT security measures, adopting technologies like Passkeys, Just-in-Time access, and Zero Trust network architectures. These initiatives reduced unauthorized access incidents by 25% and elevated workforce cybersecurity awareness through targeted training programs.

### *Founder & Lead Network Architect*

SMR Hosting LLC, Canton, Michigan

Dec 2009 – Aug 2021

- Spearheaded the design, deployment, and management of advanced IT infrastructures for a diverse client base, integrating cloud services like Azure and AWS with robust

virtualization strategies. Leveraged tools like VMware and Hyper-V to streamline operations, resulting in a 40% increase in system reliability and reduced downtime.

- Orchestrated a full-scale DevOps transformation, implementing CI/CD pipelines using Jenkins, GitLab, and Azure DevOps to support seamless software delivery. Advocated for agile principles across development teams, reducing software deployment cycles by 30% and enhancing team collaboration.
- Delivered customized network architecture solutions tailored to client needs, focusing on performance optimization and security. Implemented advanced routing protocols, firewalls, and intrusion detection systems, boosting system throughput by 25% and achieving full compliance with industry security standards.
- Built and led a cross-disciplinary team of 10 engineers and developers, fostering a culture of innovation and excellence. Under my leadership, we achieved a 98% client satisfaction rate and delivered projects 20% faster than initial timelines.
- Engineered comprehensive disaster recovery solutions, including automated data backups, geographically redundant storage, and failover protocols. Developed customized RTOs and RPOs for each client, ensuring 99.99% service availability during critical incidents.

#### *Director of Information Technology*

LiquidVPN, San Juan, Puerto Rico

Feb 2017 – Jan 2020

- Oversaw end-to-end IT operations, including infrastructure modernization, advanced network security implementations, and cloud service integrations. Migrated critical business operations to a hybrid cloud environment, improving operational resilience by 40%.
- Led a strategic initiative to automate infrastructure deployments using Infrastructure as Code (IaC) practices with tools like Terraform and Ansible. Reduced manual intervention by 70%, leading to substantial cost savings and a 25% improvement in operational efficiency.
- Directed a full-scale website redesign, integrating advanced analytics and user-friendly interfaces to improve customer engagement. Introduced real-time support chat and streamlined checkout processes, driving a 20% increase in sales conversions.
- Conducted in-depth market research to identify emerging trends and assess competitor services, driving innovation in product offerings. Implemented an agile approach to service enhancements, resulting in a 15% increase in customer retention.
- Forged strategic partnerships with industry leaders to expand LiquidVPN's service portfolio and geographic reach. Negotiated agreements that reduced supplier costs by 20% and increased network reliability.
- Devised and executed a robust risk management framework, encompassing data protection, access control policies, and regular compliance audits. Achieved a 100% compliance rate during external audits.

### **Founder & Lead Engineer**

LiquidVPN, Southfield, Michigan

Jan 2012 – Feb 2017

- Founded and operated a scalable SaaS VPN service catering to a global customer base. Utilized a hybrid infrastructure combining cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, Google Cloud) with bare-metal servers to optimize performance and cost efficiency. This approach drove a 35% year-over-year increase in subscriber growth.
- Architected and managed a multi-cloud infrastructure to ensure consistent and secure VPN endpoint performance. Developed failover and load-balancing strategies to maintain 99.999% uptime, even during peak traffic periods.
- Championed a privacy-first mission as a core brand value, integrating industry-leading encryption technologies like AES-256 and WireGuard to protect customer data. Conducted customer education campaigns on online privacy, contributing to a 40% increase in trust ratings.
- Successfully negotiated the sale of LiquidVPN to a global technology firm, securing favorable terms. Transitioned to the role of Director of IT to oversee post-acquisition integration, ensuring seamless system compatibility and expansion of service capabilities.

### **Network Engineer**

IBM Global Services, Warren, Michigan

Jul 2005 – May 2010

- Designed and deployed enterprise-grade backup systems using IBM Tivoli Storage Manager and Veritas Backup Exec. Achieved a 99.99% data recovery success rate during audits.
- Provided technical support for Citrix Metaframe XP and Active Directory domains, resolving complex issues within SLA timelines. Improved user login times and application accessibility for over 5,000 users.
- Championed the adoption of virtualization technologies, deploying VMware ESXi to optimize hardware utilization and reduce server footprint by 40%.
- Collaborated with software development teams to design, troubleshoot, and implement client-server and web-driven solutions. Enhanced system reliability and supported successful delivery of projects for Fortune 500 clients.

### **Education & Certifications**

#### **Microsoft Certified Azure Administrator Associate**

Credential ID: 65A906F84DAD0AFF | Certification number: 124A76-4K056B | Earned on: October 31, 2024

#### **Microsoft Certified Azure AI Fundamentals**

Credential ID: 40FDAF45A7B5CEFC | Certification number: UC2B3A-13AC53 | Earned on: September 24, 2024

**MCSE, A+, NET+, Security+**

New Horizons Computer Learning Center, Livonia, MI | *Jan 2004 – Jan 2005*

**Bachelor of Science: Information Technology**

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI | *Aug 1997 – Jun 2001*