BRIAN **ZHOU**

IT CLOUD & SECURITY ANALYST

4 X MICROSOFT AZURE CLOUD CERTIFIED

BSC SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

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PROFILE

Experienced Infrastructure Engineer with 8+ years of expertise in designing, deploying, and managing large-scale IT systems, with a focus on Azure cloud infrastructure, network security, and system optimisation. Proven success in ensuring system reliability and efficiency in corporate and government environments.

SKILLS

- Azure Cloud & IaaS
- Network Security & Firewall Configuration (pfSense, Azure Sentinel)
- Virtualization (Hyper-V, VMware)
- Active Directory & Identity Management
- SQL Server & Database Administration
- Continuous Integration & Delivery (CI/CD)

EDUCATION

BSC SOFTWARE ENGINEERING

Sheffield Hallam University

2007 - 2011

PENETRATION TESTING WITH KALI LINUX

Offensive Security Certified Professional (OSID): OS-75466

2020 - Present

WORK EXPERIENCE

MS SQL DBA ADMINISTRATOR

South Africa National Department of Health in Cape Town, SA

September 2019 - Present

- Installed initial Microsoft SQL Server setup, configured and administered production databases running in SQL Server containing 1,7 TiB+ in size, and 13 million+ patient-level HIV & TB records.
- Led the migration of on-premises infrastructure to Azure Cloud, optimizing network performance and ensuring system security.

AZURE INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEER - PART-TIME

Zamaqo, a Switzerland based company with office in Cape Town

August 2022 - August 2023

- Managed and optimized Azure infrastructure for continuous integration and deployment using Azure DevOps, Docker, and Kubernetes. Implemented secure cloud infrastructure, ensuring high availability and cost efficiency.
- Secured cloud environments with Azure Sentinel and performed ongoing monitoring for security threats.

IT SUPPORT ENGINEER

Truck Assist (now ONE) Somerset West in Cape Town, SA

October 2018 - January 2019

- Server Setup & Maintenance: Led the setup and configuration of servers running MDVR vehicle tracking software. Ensured the optimal performance of IIS and Apache web servers, as well as the smooth operation of MySQL databases.

MICROSOFT AZURE CERTIFIED

Fundamentals (2021 -2022)

- **Azure Fundamentals**, AZ-900
- **Data Fundamentals**, DP-900
- **Security, Compliance, and Identity Fundamentals,** SC-900
- **AI Fundamentals**, AI-900

Role-based & Challenges (2023)

- **Azure Machine Learning Operations (MLOps) Challenge,** Obtained a certificate of completion in Aug 2023
- **Azure Security Engineer Associate,** AZ-500 – Exam scheduled for the 29th of November 2024
- **Azure Cybersecurity Architect Expert**, SC-100 – Study in progress..

ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

City & Guilds in Electronics Engineering (Parts 1, 2 & 3)

1998 - 2001

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

IITPSA (Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa) - Professional society membership no. Z040132

IT INTEGRATION ENGINEER

Stock2Shop, Hout Bay in Cape Town, SA

September 2016 - August 2017

- Integration of e-Commerce sites (Magento, WooCommerce and Shopify) with Enterprise Resource Planning solutions (Sage, Pastel, Evolution, SAP & SYSPRO).
- Writing Shell scripts that automate deployment of Magento to Amazon Web Services - EC2.
- Working with Linux Ubuntu OS Server, Web APIs, REST Services, OAuth, Odata, JSON technologies.

IT PRODUCT ENGINEER

First Coast Technologies, Paarden Eiland in Cape Town, SA

April 2013 - August 2016

- Development and implementation (including creating workflows and rules) of "Alfresco" - an open-source content management system that was developed using Java technology & PostgreSQL database to provide a cloud-based document management solution to new enterprise size clients called paperfreewebTM.
- Provide end-user and technical support for the above-mentioned cloud solution while providing a high level of customer service within an agreed SLA.

COMPUTER SUPPORT VOLUNTEER

Shiregreen Neigbourhood Centre in Sheffield, UK

July 2012 - December 2012

- Doing unpaid volunteer work for a charity that empowers elderly individuals to be computer literate. On completion the individuals attained certification from the Microsoft IT Academy Program.
- I won an award of "outstanding people" while doing this volunteering work.

IT SUPPORT ANALYST (1 YEAR UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT)

Yorkshire Water in Bradford, UK

August 2009 - August 2010

- Used Visual Studio 2008 C++ with TFS (Team Foundation Server) to build bespoke applications used by water field engineers on tough-book laptops.
- IT Operations based at a data centre working in 2nd line support - duties included pro-active server monitoring, printer & desktop support, and user management tasks using Active Directory.