

Infrastructure engineer with 8+ years across networking, systems administration, and cloud platform engineering. Currently automating GCP infrastructure at Altenar with Terraform, Ansible, and Python, and running the networking layer around it — HAProxy load balancing, FortiGate perimeters, DNS and VPN. Deep networking fundamentals paired with an automation-first approach to reliability and security.

CORE SKILLS

Terraform	Ansible	GCP	Docker	Kubernetes
Prometheus	Grafana	Python	Bash	PowerShell
HAProxy	FortiGate	Cisco / Mikrotik	IPsec / SSL VPN	TCP/IP / DNS
Git / IaC	Vault	ISO 27001	Linux (RHEL/Ubuntu)	Windows Server / AD

EXPERIENCE

DevOps Infrastructure Engineer · Altenar

Mar 2024 – Present · St Julian's

- Built **modular Terraform configurations and Ansible playbooks** that make GCP environments reproducible and version-controlled across multiple regions, replacing environments that were stood up by hand.
- Wrote **Python and Bash** scripts for specific operational use cases as they came up, taking work off the team that was otherwise done by hand.
- Deployed a **Prometheus and Grafana** observability stack with automated alerting, giving SLI/SLO tracking and evidence for post-mortems.
- Containerised workloads with **Docker** and maintained Kubernetes cluster configuration, resource policies, and rolling upgrades, keeping staging and production in parity.
- Hardened secrets hygiene with Vault-based credential workflows and least-privilege IAM policies across all GCP services.
- Own the networking layer: **HAProxy** load balancing, **FortiGate** rulesets, DNS zones, and IPsec/SSL VPN gateways, with every change version-controlled via Bash automation.

Network Administrator · Smart Technologies Limited

Oct 2022 – Mar 2024 · Mosta

- Delivered network design, configuration, and hardening for **20+ client environments** on Fortinet, Mikrotik, Cisco, Aruba, and Ruckus, owning level 2–3 incidents through to resolution.
- Supported ISO 27001 compliance for clients through quarterly security audits, infrastructure gap analysis, and prioritised remediation reporting.
- Closed client exposure to critical CVEs by tracking vendor advisories and deploying firmware patches **within 48 hours of disclosure**.
- Designed resilient remote access with **SSL and IPsec VPN** and redundant failover for distributed client workforces.

IT Support Specialist · Pronet Gaming

Aug 2021 – Oct 2022 · Bugibba

- Owned the full IT infrastructure for the Malta branch — 50+ endpoints, LAN, firewall, and security perimeter.
- Handled level 1–2 tickets to SLA and authored the runbooks that turned recurring incidents into routine work.

IT Specialist · Simply VC

Nov 2020 – 2021 · Marsa

High-availability validator node infrastructure across 20+ proof-of-stake networks, running 24/7.

- Built a **Prometheus and Grafana** monitoring stack with automated alerting across **20+ networks**, so a validator falling behind surfaced as an alert instead of going unnoticed.
- Engineered **Bash and Python** deployment scripts that removed the manual steps from node setup and standardised onboarding for each new chain.
- Scripted token management, health checks, and governance workflows in **Python**, taking recurring manual work off the team.
- Designed and enforced secrets management, access control, and documented key rotation procedures across a high-value validator estate.

IT Support Officer · Computime

Apr 2019 – Nov 2020 · Birkirkara

- Delivered automated weekly health checks and preventive maintenance reporting for **10+ managed environments**, moving work from reactive callouts to scheduled maintenance.
- Built PowerShell and Bash automation for recurring diagnostics, patch verification, and user provisioning across Windows Server and Linux, and administered Azure-hosted servers and Microsoft 365 Exchange tenants.

- Early-career IT at a national government agency: LAN maintenance, hardware support, and web administration.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Built and operated outside work. Full write-ups, architecture diagrams and incident reports at nickfarrugia.dev.

Self-hosted Kubernetes platform · Four-node K3s cluster (four VMs on one bare-metal Proxmox host). Terraform provisions, Ansible configures, ArgoCD reconciles 15 applications from Git. MetalLB, Longhorn, cert-manager and a Prometheus/Grafana/Alertmanager stack with custom exporters. Rebuild from bare metal is a documented eight-step playbook.

WyrmsHost · Self-provisioning game-server hosting: storefront, Stripe checkout, queue worker and panel API integration, including a provider I ported against the panel's API. Payment to a live, playable server in ~46 seconds, measured end to end on a test purchase.

WyrmsTable · Real-time tabletop toolkit, live at wyrmsTable.eu. Next.js, Socket.IO and PostgreSQL on the cluster behind a Cloudflare Tunnel, with NetworkPolicy isolation, non-root pods, versioned migrations and nightly backups with a staleness alert.

CERTIFICATIONS, TRAINING & EDUCATION

CERTIFICATIONS

CCNA (200-301) · Cisco · studied at ICE Malta 2023

Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate (MCSA) · Microsoft · ICE Malta 2019 – 2020

COURSES & TRAINING

LPIC-1 (101 / 102) coursework · ICE Malta 2020 – 2022

IT Essentials · Cisco Networking Academy 2013 – 2014

EDUCATION

Advanced Diploma in Computer Systems & Networking (EQF 4) · MCAST, Paola 2015 – 2018

Also: European Computer Driving Licence (2014–2018) · School Leaving Certificate, EQF 3 (2010–2015)

Maltese & English – native · Driving licence: Category B · References available on request