Prashant Shevade

Head of IT & Information Security

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Hands-on IT and cybersecurity leader with 25+ years building and running secure, resilient technology for financial trading, global insurance and multi-business groups across the UAE and Europe. Currently Head of IT and Security at VCG Markets, a regulated multi-asset trading house. Previously more than 13 years with Allianz, including global endpoint security and encryption administration for 4,000+ users, and CTO of a UAE business. Combines IT strategy, governance and regulatory compliance with deep engineering skill across Microsoft Azure, Microsoft 365, AWS and Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), and builds AI-powered tools using generative AI, large language models (LLMs) and AI agents to automate IT operations and security monitoring.

CORE SKILLS

Cybersecurity: Information Security Management, Zero Trust, Identity and Access Management (IAM), Microsoft Entra ID (Azure AD), Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), Endpoint Protection, Full-Disk and Media Encryption, Device Control, Security Monitoring, Incident Management, Web Application Security Testing, End-to-End Encryption, Security Awareness Training, ISO and SOX Compliance, Regulatory Compliance.

Cloud and Infrastructure: Microsoft Azure, Microsoft 365, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), Cloudflare, Hybrid Cloud, Windows Server, Active Directory, Group Policy, Linux (Ubuntu, Debian), Docker, Containers, Proxmox, Virtualisation, Networking, VPN, Tailscale, WireGuard, SQL Server, Oracle Database, PostgreSQL.

AI and Automation: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Generative AI, Large Language Models (LLMs), AI Agents, Model Context Protocol (MCP), Anthropic Claude, Claude Code, Local LLMs (Ollama), Prompt Engineering, Computer Vision, OCR, Speech-to-Text, AI-Assisted Software Development, Python, PowerShell, Node.js, C#, .NET, React, REST APIs, Microsoft Graph.

Leadership and Governance: IT Strategy, Technology Roadmaps, Digital Transformation, IT Governance, IT Policies and Procedures, Business Continuity Management (BCM), Disaster Recovery (DR), ITIL Service Management, Vendor and Contract Management, Budgeting, Project and Programme Management, Stakeholder Management, Team Leadership, Office Relocation, End-User Training.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Head of IT and Security

VCG Markets, Dubai, UAE | Jan 2022 – Present

Lead IT and information security for a multi-asset online trading house (currencies, commodities and cryptocurrencies), currently a regulated Category 5 firm working towards a Category 1 licence. Hired to design and implement the firm's end-to-end IT landscape: cloud and on-premises infrastructure, identity, end-user computing and security.

- Wrote the firm's IT policies, procedures and supporting documentation, including business continuity and disaster recovery, to regulator standard and to support the move from Category 5 to Category 1.
- Introduced AI-driven security and IT operations tools that give the IT team faster insight into the Microsoft cloud estate and its security posture.
- Built a self-hosted, end-to-end encrypted remote-support service to replace third-party remote-access software.

- Run cloud identity and security across Microsoft Azure, Microsoft 365 and Entra ID, with endpoint security, backup and business continuity for an always-on trading environment.

Chief Technology Officer
Secretariat's World, UAE | Jan 2021 – Jan 2022

- Set up the company's full IT operation in the UAE from scratch; managed the IT department and local IT contracts, working with the head office in India.
- Designed and built the company's own CRM and invoicing software.
- Wrote and maintained the Business Continuity Management documentation.
- Ran end-user training and engagement workshops for staff in India.

Senior Technical Analyst
Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (AGCS), Dubai, UAE | Mar 2010 – Dec 2020

Ran all IT for the Dubai office while holding global roles: Symantec global administrator, global Sophos Endpoint Encryption administrator and Advanced Group Policy Management administrator for all 4,000+ AGCS employees worldwide.

- Rolled out full-disk and media encryption to 4,000+ machines worldwide.
- Implemented global endpoint security (antivirus, client firewall and device control) across 4,000+ machines.
- Led digital transformation to a 100% paperless office, with e-signatures for all policies and contracts.
- Delivered hardware refreshes and operating system migrations (Windows XP to Windows 7 to Windows 10) with minimal disruption to the business.
- Wrote and implemented the full Business Continuity Management plan for the local office.
- Managed IT contracts, office fit-outs and process-efficiency analysis; wrote scripts to automate administration.
- Trained colleagues on Symantec Endpoint Protection, endpoint encryption and BCM, and ran Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint workshops.
- Received the Allianz Innovator of the Year award (2012).

IT Manager
Allianz SE, Dubai, UAE | May 2007 – Mar 2010

- Managed all IT for the Dubai branch of one of the world's largest insurance groups.
- Appointed global Incident Manager (April 2010), alongside local duties.

IT Manager
Palmon Group of Companies, UAE | Jan 2006 – May 2007

- Ran group-wide IT (50+ systems) for a diversified group: Seimatic kitchens, Italian furniture and lighting, interior design, garment manufacturing and retail, security and property management.

IT Manager
Gray Business Communications, UAE | Aug 2004 – Dec 2005

- Ran IT (40+ systems) for the publisher of 14 leading magazines, including Gulf Marketing Review, RaceWeek and Citylife.

Network Administrator
Verger et Delporte UAE Ltd, UAE | Sep 2002 – Jul 2004

- Ran a multi-site network (140+ systems) for an ISO-certified engineering group with offices in Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Doha.

Programmer and Network Administrator
Innovations Commercial Brokers, UAE | Jun 1999 – Aug 2002

- Did software development and network administration (40+ systems) for a below-the-line advertising, database management and call-centre firm.

PROJECTS

- **Private AI lab:** self-hosted large language models (Ollama: Qwen, MiniCPM-V) for document OCR and tool-using AI assistants, keeping sensitive data on-device; AI-assisted development with Claude Code and the Anthropic API.
- **Zero-trust private cloud:** Linux platform running 10+ containerised and Python services, with zero-trust remote access, per-user access policies managed as code, HTTPS/PKI and automated daily off-site backups.
- **Multi-cloud and virtualisation:** an Oracle Cloud (OCI) VM as a secure network exit node, and a Proxmox VE host serving Windows 11 desktops behind zero-trust networking.
- **AI video analytics:** network video recorder with AI object detection across six cameras.
- **prashantshevade.com:** serverless site on Cloudflare Workers with a Turnstile-protected contact form, Email Routing and hardened security headers.

EDUCATION

- Bachelor's Degree, Computer Information Systems, Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, USA (2002 – 2003)
- Associate's Degree, Computer Information Systems, Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, USA (2000 – 2002)
- National Diploma, Software Engineering, MidKent College, UK (1998 – 2000); Silver Medal

CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (Microsoft)
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate (Microsoft)
- AWS Cloud Architect training (Amazon Web Services)
- Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer: Security (MCSE) (Microsoft)
- Microsoft Certified Professional, Windows Server (Microsoft)
- Symantec Certified Specialist: Endpoint Protection 14 (Symantec)
- ITIL Foundation v3
- Windows Server 2019: Implementing Group Policy; Windows 10: Security; Fusion 360 Essential Training (LinkedIn Learning)

AWARDS

- Innovator of the Year, Allianz (2012)
- Silver Medal for most distinctions, Software Engineering diploma, MidKent College (1999)
- Built the first cybernetic hand prototype in the Middle East (1998)