Prashant Shevade

Head of IT & Information Security

Cybersecurity · Cloud (Azure · AWS · OCI) · AI & Automation · IT Leadership

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

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Hands-on IT and cybersecurity leader with 25+ years running secure, resilient technology for financial trading, global insurance and multi-business groups. I pair IT strategy and governance with deep engineering skill across Microsoft Azure, Microsoft 365, AWS and Oracle Cloud, and I build **AI-powered tools** on large language models (LLMs), AI agents and the Model Context Protocol (MCP) to automate IT operations and security monitoring.

25+ yrs in IT & security, since 1999	**4,000+** users & endpoints secured globally	**3 clouds** Azure · AWS · Oracle Cloud	**12+** certifications & trainings

PROFILE

Summary

Senior IT and information-security leader who has built IT functions from the ground up and run them at global scale. More than 13 years with **Allianz** included global administration of endpoint protection, full-disk encryption and Group Policy for 4,000+ employees across Europe and the Middle East. Since then I have led technology as **CTO** and, today, as **Head of IT & Security** at a regulated multi-asset trading house.

I bring together **cybersecurity, cloud infrastructure, business continuity and AI-driven automation**. I deliver to cost, time and quality, communicate clearly with boards and end users alike, and stay hands-on with code and infrastructure.

Industries: Financial services & online trading (FX, commodities, crypto) · Insurance & reinsurance · Media & publishing · Manufacturing, retail & property.

Highlights

- Secured **4,000+ endpoints** globally with full-disk encryption, antivirus, firewall and device control
- Introduced **AI-driven security and IT operations** tooling for a regulated trading firm
- Set up the full IT operation for a new UAE business as **CTO**
- Delivered a **100% paperless office** with e-signatures for all policies and contracts
- Wrote and ran **Business Continuity & Disaster Recovery** plans; moved a live server room
- **Innovator of the Year**, Allianz (2012) · Built the first cybernetic hand prototype in the Middle East (1998)

CORE EXPERTISE

Cybersecurity

Information Security Management · Zero Trust · Identity & Access Management · Microsoft Entra ID (Azure AD) · MFA · Endpoint Protection · Full-Disk & Media Encryption · Device Control · Security Monitoring & Incident Management · Web Application Security Testing · End-to-End Encryption · Security Awareness Training · ISO & SOX Compliance

Cloud & Infrastructure

Microsoft Azure · AWS · Oracle Cloud (OCI) · Microsoft 365 · Cloudflare (Workers, DNS, Zero Trust) · Hybrid Cloud · Windows Server · Active Directory · Advanced Group Policy · Linux (Ubuntu, Debian) · Docker & Containers · Proxmox Virtualisation · Networking & VPN · Tailscale / WireGuard · SQL Server · Oracle · PostgreSQL

AI & Automation

Generative AI · Large Language Models (LLMs) · AI Agents · Model Context Protocol (MCP) · Anthropic Claude & Claude Code · Local / Private LLMs (Ollama) · Prompt Engineering · Vision AI & OCR · Speech-to-Text · AI-Assisted Software Development · Python · PowerShell · Node.js · C# / .NET · React · REST APIs & Microsoft Graph

Leadership, Governance & Resilience

IT Strategy & Roadmaps · Digital Transformation · Business Continuity (BCM) · Disaster Recovery · IT Governance · ITIL Service Management · Vendor & Contract Management · Project & Programme Delivery · Stakeholder Management · Team Leadership · Office Relocation & Fit-out · End-user Training

EXPERIENCE

Head of IT and Security — Current

Jan 2022 – Present

VCG Markets · Dubai

I 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. I was hired to design and implement the firm's end-to-end IT landscape: cloud and on-premises infrastructure, identity, end-user computing and security.

- **IT governance and documentation:** wrote the firm's IT policies, procedures and supporting documentation, including business continuity and disaster recovery, to the standard required by the regulator and to support the move from Category 5 to Category 1.
- **AI-driven security and IT operations:** brought in AI-assisted tools that give the IT team faster insight into the Microsoft cloud estate and its security posture.
- **Secure remote support:** built a self-hosted, end-to-end encrypted remote-support service to replace third-party remote-access software.
- 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

Jan 2021 – Jan 2022

Secretariat's World · UAE

Built and led the company's technology function in the UAE, working with the head office in India.

- Set up the full IT operation from scratch and managed the IT department and local IT contracts
- 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

Mar 2010 – Dec 2020 · 10 yrs 10 mos

Allianz Global Corporate & Specialty (AGCS) · Dubai

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

- **Full-disk and media encryption** rolled out to 4,000+ machines worldwide
- **Global endpoint security:** antivirus, client firewall and device control across 4,000+ machines
- **Digital transformation:** 100% paperless office with e-signatures for all policies and contracts
- Hardware refreshes and OS migrations (Windows XP → 7 → 10) with minimal disruption to the business
- Wrote and implemented the full Business Continuity Management (BCM) plan for the local office

- Managed IT contracts, multiple office fit-outs and process-efficiency analysis
- Programming and scripting to automate administration; documentation for many applications and processes
- Trained colleagues on Symantec Endpoint Protection, endpoint encryption and BCM, and ran Excel and PowerPoint workshops
- Travelled regularly to European offices for workshops, training and team collaboration
- Received the **Innovator of the Year** award in 2012

IT Manager
May 2007 – Mar 2010

Allianz SE · Dubai

Managed all IT for the Dubai branch of one of the world's largest insurance groups. In April 2010 I was also appointed **global Incident Manager**, alongside my local duties.

IT Manager
Jan 2006 – May 2007

Palmon Group of Companies · UAE

Ran group-wide IT for a diversified group: Seimatic (high-end German kitchens), Italian furniture and lighting, interior design, garment manufacturing and retail, a security division and property management.

Network size: 50+ systems

IT Manager
Aug 2004 – Dec 2005

Gray Business Communications · UAE

Ran IT for the publisher of 14 leading magazines, including Gulf Marketing Review, RaceWeek and Citylife.

Network size: 40+ systems

Network Administrator
Sep 2002 – Jul 2004

Verger et Delporte UAE Ltd · UAE

Ran a multi-site network for an ISO-certified engineering group (IT, switchgear manufacturing, contracting and trading) with offices in Sharjah, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Al Ain and Doha.

Network size: 140+ systems

Programmer & Network Administrator
Jun 1999 – Aug 2002

Innovations Commercial Brokers · UAE

Did software development and network administration for a below-the-line advertising firm that also offered database management and call-centre services.

Network size: 40+ systems

AI, CLOUD & AUTOMATION PROJECTS

Private AI on your own hardware
Self-hosted large language models (Ollama: Qwen, MiniCPM-V vision) for document OCR and tool-using AI assistants. Sensitive data never leaves the device.

AI-assisted engineering
Rapid delivery of production apps with Claude Code and the Anthropic API: full-stack web apps, real-time chat with WebRTC calling, offline speech-to-text dictation and AI voice tools.

Zero-trust private cloud
Linux server platform running 10+ containerised and Python services. Remote access is zero-trust with per-user access policies managed as code, HTTPS/PKI throughout, and automated daily off-site backups.

Multi-cloud & virtualisation
An Oracle Cloud (OCI) VM as a secure network exit node, and a Proxmox VE host serving Windows 11 desktops over RDP behind zero-trust networking, with no open ports.

AI video analytics

A network video recorder that uses AI object detection across six cameras, integrated with home automation and self-healing monitoring.

This website

Serverless, running on Cloudflare's edge network and hardened like production: strict security headers and CSP, HSTS, DNSSEC, DMARC and TLS 1.2+. The contact form is protected by Turnstile bot checks and rate limiting and delivered through Email Routing, so no personal contact details are exposed.

A+ Mozilla Observatory

A+ SecurityHeaders

A+ SSL Labs

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree, Computer Information Systems
Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, USA · 2002 – 2003
Studied through Emirates Centre for Management & IT, UAE

Associate's Degree, Computer Information Systems
Champlain College, Burlington, Vermont, USA · 2000 – 2002

National Diploma, Software Engineering
MidKent College, UK · 1998 – 2000 · Silver Medal
Studied through Zenith Training Institute, UAE

LICENCES & CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals
Microsoft

Microsoft 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 · also SEP 12 training

ITIL Foundation v3
IT Service Management

Windows Server 2019: Implementing Group Policy
LinkedIn Learning · 2020

Windows 10: Security
LinkedIn Learning · 2019

Fusion 360 Essential Training
LinkedIn Learning · 3D design & CAD

HONOURS & AWARDS

Innovator of the Year
Allianz · 2012

Silver Medal
MidKent College · 1999 · Most distinctions in the Software Engineering diploma

Cybernetic hand prototype
1998 · First prototype in the Middle East