

DAVID NICOLA

Consulting Systems Engineer | Systems Security | Network Architecture & Performance
(419)-980-4889 | dnicola95@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Consulting Systems Engineer with experience advising clients and securing, redesigning, and performance-tuning cloud, hybrid, and on-premises infrastructure. Strengths include virtualization modernization, network security, Fortinet/FortiGate and SD-WAN operations, VPN/IPsec, segmentation, VMware/Proxmox, Linux/Windows servers, IAM/PKI, SIEM/EDR, DNS, vulnerability remediation, resilient distributed file services, and practical AI/RAG enablement using local LLM tooling. AWS Solutions Architect - Professional, Fortinet FCSS/FCP, Azure Administrator Associate, and CCNP Security certified; pursuing an M.S. in Cyber Operations and eligible for U.S. Secret or Top Secret clearance.

CORE SYSTEMS ENGINEERING & SECURITY SKILLS

Network redesign & performance: SD-WAN, VPN/IPsec, segmentation, routing, site connectivity, FortiGate/Fortinet, Cisco/Juniper/Meraki/MikroTik/Aruba, high availability, and tuning.

Systems modernization: virtualization redesign, VMware vSphere, Proxmox VE, Windows/Linux servers, Nasuni/DFS, resilient file systems, datacenter/colocation migrations, server hardware, and automation.

Security operations: Security Liaison work, vulnerability management, Arctic Wolf scanning review, EDR, SIEM/logging, Duo proxies, Mimecast, DNS security, IAM, PKI, Active Directory, LDAP, and OpenID.

Cloud, platform & AI engineering: AWS, Azure, VPCs, hybrid connectivity, Terraform, AWS CDK, Ansible, Kubernetes, Docker, ECS/EKS, Ollama, Open WebUI, vector databases, RAG workflows, Bash, Python, PowerShell, Java, HTML, and MySQL.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consulting Systems Engineer | World Wide Technology (WWT) June 2026 - Present

- Deliver client-facing systems engineering for WWT clients across virtualization modernization, infrastructure redesign, and network security technical projects.
- Assess VMware/Proxmox, compute, storage, and network environments to define migration paths, performance gaps, and operational risks.
- Develop virtualization redesign and migration plans covering host architecture, shared storage, HA, backups, and workload cutover.
- Review firewall policies, segmentation, VPN/IPsec connectivity, and traffic flows to improve security, resiliency, and performance.

Infrastructure Engineer | IBP July 2024 - June 2026

- Served as Security Liaison for infrastructure operations, coordinating security requirements, evidence, remediation, and operational risk reviews across IT and security stakeholders.
- Managed and supported Duo authentication proxies, Mimecast email security, DNS security controls, Aurora and Carbon Black EDR, FortiAnalyzer SIEM logging, and related alert/review workflows.
- Reviewed Arctic Wolf scanning findings, validated risk, prioritized remediation, and drove vulnerability closure across network, endpoint, and server assets.
- Redesigned and performance-tuned network systems including FortiGate firewall policies, SD-WAN/site connectivity, segmentation, and high-availability paths.

- Migrated legacy file systems to Nasuni/DFS; administered VMware vSphere on HP/Dell hardware; supported HQ-to-colocation datacenter migration and buildout.
- Led development workload migration to Proxmox VE and built self-hosted AI/RAG lab workflows using Open WebUI, Ollama, local models, embeddings, vector database indexing, and document retrieval pipelines.

Systems Engineer | Bresco Broadband

April 2022 - July 2024

- Redesigned legacy network and core systems architecture, implementing redundant DNS/core services, replication/failover, and security controls to improve stability and performance.
- Overhauled user/security policies, migrated legacy servers, hardened Azure/on-prem domain services, and managed Azure endpoints/Exchange, AWS Glacier/VPCs, and Linux databases.
- Audited datacenter security, managed vulnerability/patch workflows, and created remediation SOPs for repeatable operations.
- Rebuilt DNS by migrating hosts, reconstructing databases, and implementing replication/failover; tuned VoIP PBX and database workloads and automated maintenance.
- Supported Kubernetes, Docker, AWS ECS/EKS, Azure, VPNs, LDAP, DNS, PKI, SSO, and Cisco/Juniper networking.

Network Engineer | Chick-fil-A

Sept 2021 - April 2022

- Provided Tier 1-3 support for network, hardware, software, POS, and server issues across operational environments.
- Supported deployment, maintenance, and troubleshooting of switches, routers, servers, and network devices to sustain site performance.

Network Implementation Engineer | L Brands

Sep 2020 - Aug 2021

- Configured and deployed switches, routers, firewalls, and related devices; installed, upgraded, and secured network environments.
- Troubleshoot customer issues, supported network changes, created documentation/diagrams/procedures, and mentored new team members.

Cyber QA Analyst | Huntington National Bank

Jan 2020 - Jul 2020

- Supported IAM software deployment, identified security defects, and tested/debugged in TFS and MTM.
- Assessed cybersecurity risks, tested security controls, maintained systems, and applied patches.

Support Engineer Intern | Ohio House of Representatives

2019

- Diagnosed printer/network issues, supported users, and maintained user data, print services, Windows/Linux servers, workstations, and applications.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

M.S. Cyber Operations | University of Maryland Global Campus | GPA 4.0 | 2024-2026

B.S. Computer Networks & Cyber Security | University of Maryland Global Campus | GPA 3.8 | 2018-2020

B.S. Political Science | The Ohio State University | 2017-2019

[Cisco Certified Network Professional Security \(CCNP-S\)](#) | Cisco | 2025

[Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate](#) | Microsoft | 2025

[FCSS Public Cloud Security](#) | Fortinet | 2025

[FCP Network Security](#) | Fortinet | 2025

[AWS Solutions Architect - Professional](#) | Amazon Web Services | 2024

[AWS Solutions Architect - Associate](#) | Amazon Web Services | 2024

[IBM Cybersecurity Analyst](#) | Coursera - IBM | 2022

LANGUAGES

English (Professional) | French (Elementary) | Russian (Elementary)