Matthew D. Close

Senior Security Professional – Security Product Engineer/Architect - Cloud Infrastructures

**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Strong technical leader with a passion for innovating security products that drive business value. Expert at designing multi-platform security policies, products, and infrastructures. 20 years of experience in the high-tech sector, with more than 11 years at or above director-level in an information security organization. Successful track record managing the most cumbersome projects while continuing to meet deadlines and quality standards. Driven by results while leveraging teamwork. Exemplary internal, executive, and customer-facing communication skills. Areas of technical expertise include:

* Firewalls (Cisco and Check Point)
* Intrusion Detection & Prevention (Trend Micro, Snort)
* VPNs (IPSec, clientless)
* Virtualization (VMWare, Docker)
* Python, Perl, PowerShell
* PCI Compliance
* Identity and access management (Active Directory, token-based, certificate-based)
* Threat, risk, & vulnerability detection
* Site analysis, policy configuration, and auditing
* Open source platforms
* Cloud & dedicated host environments
* Agile development

**Key accomplishments:**

* Designed and delivered security products trusted by major enterprise customers to protect multi-billion dollar infrastructures and information assets.
* As a founding member of the Managed Security Services (MSS) group at Exodus, helped guide the department through three corporate acquisitions, spurring growth from 23 customer firewalls to over 5,000 firewalls, VPNs, and other security products.
* Elevated management responsibilities from daily staff supervision to a more curated focus on the company’s most talented security architects and engineers.
* Responsible for designing and teaching all firewall training courses for department staff, product managers, and customers. Frequently praised for ability to provide clear, concise instruction.
* Successfully integrated additional corporate security groups into the Security Engineering department—a task that required the patience and diplomacy of a seasoned manager.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

***CenturyLink (previously SAVVIS, Cable & Wireless, and Exodus Communications)***

**Senior Security Expert, Product Engineering & Design for Cloud (2014 – present)**

Recognized senior technical authority in new Security Engineering team, formed as a result of a corporate reorganization. In addition to previous responsibilities, duties now include aggressive Agile development of security products for CenturyLink Cloud Platform. Responsible for:

* Building cloud-based security products that help customers substantially reduce the risks of cloud migrations. This is a huge advantage, as customers that can securely move to the cloud regularly cut 40-50% off annual operations expenses.
* Identifying, assessing, and approving new technologies—such as two-factor identification and Intrusion Detection & Prevention (IDP) in the cloud—that keep product/service roadmap efficient and innovative.
* Overseeing security product design, API, and feature development.
* Tackling hectic project schedules to satisfy customer needs, deliver high-quality products, and demonstrate financial viability.
* Working closely with other IT, development, and security groups within the company in order to achieve cohesive product delivery and superior customer service.

**Senior Director, Security Product Architecture (2008 - 2014)**

Chief architect of advanced security products that enhance the company’s dedicated host and cloud managed security service portfolios. These managed services protect billions of dollars in customer assets and are responsible for generating around $32M in annual customer sales. Responsible for:

* Outlining product roadmaps, guiding technical direction of the security organization, and leading the implementation of all security product and services.
* Directing and monitoring the complete protection of approximately 1,500 customer sites across 30+ global data centers, including multi-layer security architecture and policy design, incident response, detailed security auditing, threat detection, and risk & vulnerability assessments.
* Acting as final escalation point for all technical and security issues in the department. Served as liaison to FBI in multiple high-profile attack investigations.
* Obtaining and maintaining PCI compliance for the firewall and IDS managed services.

**Previous Roles within the Organization**

* **Director, Managed Security Services (under Cable & Wireless and SAVVIS, Inc. 2004-2008)**Tasked with building new innovation into security services and products—including cloud capabilities—to keep company competitive.
* **Director, Security Engineering (under Cable & Wireless, 2001 – 2004)**Following a major corporate acquisition, led security engineering team to create new security service portfolio for a much larger customer base.
* **Manager, Security Engineering (under Exodus, 1999-2001)**Responsible for leading a team of 28 engineers as the company began its foray into the managed security service space.
* **Security Engineer (under Exodus, 1998 – 1999)**Implemented and supported a rapidly growing, complex global security infrastructure.

**Previous Roles**

1997-1998 IT & Network Administration, GeoNet, San Francisco, CA

1996-1997 IT & Network Administration, VeriFone, Internet Commerce Division, Menlo Park, CA

**EDUCATION**

**Stanford University**

B.A., English Literature

Focus of study also included advanced Mathematics, Chemistry, and Computer Science