

Contact

0645008899 (Mobile)
olivierschalk1@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/schalkolivier
(LinkedIn)
github.com/MrTwister96 (Other)

Top Skills

Desktop Support
Remote User Support
Technical Support

Languages

Afrikaans
English

Certifications

National Senior Certificate
CCENT
Hirschmann Industrial Ethernet
Specialist
CCNA Routing and Switching

Schalk Olivier

Dynamic OT Network Specialist | Blending Advanced Network Management with Strategic IT Innovations | Passionate about Pioneering Future-Ready Tech Solutions | Insatiably Curious
City of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

Summary

As an OT Network Specialist at Anglo American, my career is characterized by a blend of operational leadership and strategic planning in network and software engineering, with over six years of experience in the field. I lead a team responsible for the seamless operation and strategic development of network infrastructure across more than 70 sites.

In my role, I am tasked with managing complex network infrastructure issues, emphasizing security, efficiency, and reliability across various networking systems. This includes routing, switching, and managing wireless infrastructure, as well as overseeing high-performance network services like ISE, Firepower, and DNAC.

Strategically, I focus on the long-term stability and scalability of our network. This involves not only day-to-day operational oversight but also strategic planning for future network needs. I collaborate with third-party network vendors, ensuring their services align with our organizational goals.

In a significant shift towards personal and professional growth, I am currently pursuing a degree in physics. This new academic venture reflects my deep-seated interest in the fundamental principles that underpin our world and technology.

Skills:

- Proficient in server-side technologies, including VMware, Hyper-V, Windows Server, and Linux, contributing to our comprehensive IT infrastructure.
- Skilled in software engineering and automation, with capabilities in Python, JavaScript, Database management

With a relentless drive for excellence and innovation, I continuously seek to elevate our network's capabilities, ensuring agility and robustness in the rapidly evolving tech landscape.

Experience

Anglo American

4 years 4 months

OT Specialist: Operations Centre

July 2024 - Present (6 months)

City of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

- Lead the IM Support Centre, overseeing Service Desk operations, Monitoring, and Observability.
- Optimize and integrate IT and OT monitoring systems to improve reliability and operational visibility.
- Drive initiatives in observability to enhance proactive system insights and reduce downtime.
- Collaborate with cross-functional teams to maintain seamless support and system operations.

OT Specialist - Voice Data Networks

January 2023 - June 2024 (1 year 6 months)

City of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

As an OT Specialist in Voice Data Networks, I play a crucial role in the design, implementation, and maintenance of voice and data network systems within an operational technology environment. My responsibilities encompass a wide range of tasks, from ensuring the seamless integration of voice and data communications to optimizing network performance for critical industrial operations.

Key Responsibilities:

Designing and configuring voice and data network infrastructure to support operational needs, ensuring high reliability and efficiency.

Overseeing the installation and maintenance of network hardware and software, including routers, switches, and voice communication systems.

Conducting regular network assessments to identify areas for improvement, ensuring robustness against potential disruptions.

Collaborating with cross-functional teams to align network solutions with broader organizational objectives and operational technology standards.

Managing and resolving complex network issues, providing L3 support to ensure minimal downtime and optimal network performance.

Keeping abreast of the latest developments in network technology, particularly those relevant to voice and data integration in an operational technology context.

My role demands a deep understanding of both traditional IT networks and the specific challenges faced in an operational technology setting, where network stability and security are paramount. Balancing technical expertise with strategic planning, I strive to ensure that our voice and data networks are not only functional and reliable but also aligned with the evolving needs of our industrial operations.

OT Network Engineer - Team Lead

September 2020 - March 2023 (2 years 7 months)

City of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa

As OT Network Engineer - Team Lead, I led a team in managing and enhancing our operational technology network infrastructure. Key responsibilities included overseeing complex network projects, providing advanced L3 support, and collaborating with cross-functional teams to align network operations with organizational goals. My role balanced technical network management with leadership, ensuring optimal system performance and team development.

RSAWEB

Software Developer

April 2020 - September 2020 (6 months)

Cape Town, Western Cape, South Africa

As a Software Developer for an ISP, I focused on integrating networking with systems using a range of technologies like Python, Django, MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, PHP, and Sandvine PSM.

A notable project involved designing and building an integration between the customer portal (for managing SIM cards and data allocations) and network services handling AAA (Authentication, Authorization and Accounting). This work exemplified my ability to create seamless interactions between user-facing platforms and underlying network infrastructure.

Anglo American

IIT Network Administrator

October 2019 - March 2020 (6 months)

Rustenburg, North-West, South Africa

As an Industrial IT Network Administrator, I was responsible for the maintenance, configuration, and reliable operation of industrial IT network systems. My role involved ensuring network security, troubleshooting network issues, and providing support for IT systems used in industrial settings. I played a key role in optimizing network performance, managing network infrastructure, and implementing new technologies to meet the evolving needs of industrial operations.

RSAWEB

Network Engineer

August 2018 - September 2019 (1 year 2 months)

Cape Town Area, South Africa

During my tenure as a Network Engineer at an ISP, I specialized in building and maintaining ISP-grade network infrastructure. My responsibilities encompassed a broad spectrum of technologies, including VoIP (SIP), AAA, and various network infrastructures with a focus on Cisco, Extreme, Mikrotik, TP-Link, and cloud stack technologies. This role demanded a deep understanding of network systems and a commitment to ensuring robust, high-performing network solutions for ISP operations.

INDUSNET

1 year 7 months

Technology Architect

January 2018 - July 2018 (7 months)

Pretoria Area, South Africa

As a Technology Architect at INDUSNET, I advised on Enterprise Roadmaps, focusing on infrastructure and security. My role included strategic planning, technology architecture design, and long-term enterprise alignment. I managed third-party implementations, network device administration, and performance monitoring. Key technical skills involved network technologies (switching, routing, redundancy), Cisco ASA setup, server management (Hyper-V, Active Directory), and SQL for reporting and database management.

Junior Tehnology Architect

June 2017 - December 2017 (7 months)

Pretoria Area, South Africa

- Act as the customer's trusted advisor in their overall Enterprise Roadmap.

- Collaborate with all the relevant parties in order to review the objectives and constraints of each solution and determine conformance with the Enterprise Architecture framework and standards.
- Where required, manage 3rd parties on behalf of the customer to implement the approved technology design.
- Administration of IP Networks and Network Devices (Firewalls, Switches etc.)
- Setup, Configure and troubleshoot Cisco and Hirschmann IP Networks and Devices.
- Setup, Configure and troubleshoot Network Performance Monitoring (Solarwinds, Hirschmann Industrial High Vision, Lansweeper).
- Experience with: - Switching (Spanning Tree, VLANs, Device Tracking, L3 Switching etc.) - Routing (Static, OSPF Single and Multi Area, Virtual Routing and Forwarding (VRFs) etc.) - Redundancy (VSS, Active/Standby Firewalls, HSRP, Stacking, EtherChannel) - Cisco ASA Setup and Administration (Rules, Policies, VPNs etc.) - Route Maps - Access Lists (Standard and Extended) - ETC.
- Server Support (Windows Server, Setup of Hyper-V etc.)

Service Desk Agent

January 2017 - May 2017 (5 months)

Pretoria, South Africa

- 1st Line support for technical requests and incidents.
- Logging of technical requests and incidents on Manage Engine Service Desk Plus.
- Follow standard service desk procedures.
- Administer help desk software (Manage Engine Service Desk Plus) (Manage Sites, Setup Change Procedures etc.)
- Redirect problems to correct resources.
- Identify and escalate situations requiring urgent attention.
- Track and route problems and requests and document resolutions.

Central Technical Solutions

Junior Technician

January 2015 - January 2016 (1 year 1 month)

Kempton Park

As a Junior IT Technician, I provided comprehensive IT support to a diverse clientele, including both home users and businesses. My responsibilities involved troubleshooting hardware and software issues, setting up and maintaining computer systems, and offering technical guidance. This role was crucial in ensuring client satisfaction through efficient problem-solving and reliable technical assistance.

Education

Zero To Mastery Academy

Richfield Graduate Institute of Technology

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Information
Technology · (2016 - 2017)