

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. Ten 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 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
- Built an **AI security assistant** for Azure & Microsoft 365 using LLMs and MCP
- 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 Middle East's first working cybernetic hand (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 (ECDH, AES-GCM)

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). 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.

- **AI security & admin intelligence platform:** an MCP server that exposes Microsoft Graph and Azure Management APIs to an AI assistant (Claude). It answers plain-English questions about users, sign-ins, MFA coverage, security incidents and VM status, alongside a React dashboard across Azure, Microsoft 365 and Power Platform.
- **Self-hosted, end-to-end encrypted remote-support platform** (C#/.NET, ECDH + AES-GCM): technicians sign in with Microsoft Entra ID, users must consent before a session, and a relay broker means no inbound firewall ports. Replaces third-party remote-access SaaS.
- Cloud identity and security on Microsoft Entra ID / Microsoft 365, with endpoint security, backup and business continuity for a regulated, always-on trading environment.

Azure

Microsoft 365

Entra ID

MCP

LLMs

Node.js

React

C# / .NET

SW

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



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.

Local LLMs Vision AI AI Agents Data Privacy

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.

Claude Python · FastAPI WebRTC Speech AI

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.

Ubuntu Docker Tailscale ACLs Backup & DR

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.

Oracle Cloud Proxmox Windows 11 VPN

AI video analytics

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

Computer Vision

Frigate NVR

IoT

This website

Serverless, running on Cloudflare's edge network. The contact form is protected by Turnstile bot checks and rate limiting and delivered through Email Routing, so no personal contact details are exposed.

Cloudflare Workers

Serverless

Privacy by Design

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

1998 · First working version built in the Middle East

