**Ali Abdullah**

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**Summary**

* Accomplished IT professional with over 12 years of experience in system installations, configurations, administration, and support, specializing in Windows servers (2003–2019), VMware (4.x–7.x), and cloud technologies like Azure.
* Extensive expertise in IT security, conducting vulnerability assessments using industry-leading tools (Rapid7, Tenable, Qualys), coordinating remediation efforts, and implementing security-focused solutions to enhance the overall security posture.
* Skilled in disaster recovery planning and execution, including multi-site solutions using VMware SRM, replication technologies, and business continuity planning (RPO/RTO calculations).
* Proficient in designing and implementing secure, scalable enterprise architectures for on-premises and cloud environments, leveraging Azure for seamless integration.
* Experienced in enterprise-level monitoring with VMware Operations Manager Suite, providing actionable insights on resource utilization and infrastructure optimization.
* Hands-on expertise in server builds, virtual machine migrations, and automation using PowerShell, PowerCLI, and VB Script to streamline operations and improve reliability.
* Strong background in maintaining and securing Active Directory, DNS, DHCP, and domain controllers, alongside implementing WSUS for enterprise patching and compliance.
* Skilled in data protection and system backups with Tivoli Storage Manager, Backup Exec, and VMware vSphere replication tools.
* Demonstrated leadership in cross-functional teams, driving successful migrations, vulnerability remediation, and IT infrastructure upgrades aligned with business objectives.

**Technical Skills**

* Virtualization: vSphere, ESXi, vCenter, VMware SRM, Hyper-V, vRealize Suite
* Cloud Platforms: Azure (Compute, Storage, Active Directory, Automation), VMware vCloud Suite
* Server Administration: Windows Server (2003–2019), RHEL, Debian, Active Directory
* Automation & Scripting: PowerShell, VBScript, PowerCLI, Terraform
* Storage & Backup: SAN, NAS, VMware vSAN, Tivoli, Backup Exec
* Networking & Security: Cisco, TCP/IP, DNS, VPN, Rapid7, Tenable, Qualys

**Education & Certifications**

* Associate of Applied of Science in Network Systems Administration  
  ITT Technical Institute, Chicago, IL | 2012
* VMware Certified Professional (VCP)
* Microsoft Certified Solutions Expert (MCSE)
* Azure Administrator (AZ-104) Associate
* ITIL Foundation

**Summary**

* Accomplished IT professional with over 12 years of experience in system installations, configurations, administration, and support, specializing in Windows Servers (2003–2019), VMware (4.x–7.x), and Azure cloud technologies.
* Extensive expertise in IT security, conducting vulnerability assessments using Rapid7, Tenable, and Qualys, and driving cross-functional remediation efforts, resulting in enhanced security posture.
* Proven track record in disaster recovery planning using VMware SRM, including multi-site replication, business continuity planning, and precise RPO/RTO implementations.
* Skilled in designing and implementing scalable, secure cloud architectures using Azure and VMware vCloud, aligning with business goals and reducing operational costs.
* Hands-on experience in server builds, virtual machine migrations, datastore optimization, and automation scripting using PowerShell, VBScript, and PowerCLI.
* Strong background in maintaining and securing Active Directory, DNS, DHCP, and GPOs, with expertise in enterprise patch management using WSUS and Ivanti.
* Demonstrated leadership in managing cross-functional teams, driving IT infrastructure upgrades, vulnerability remediation, and large-scale cloud migration projects.
* Adept at using VMware Operations Manager Suite and vRealize Suite for monitoring and optimizing resource utilization, ensuring high system reliability.

**Technical Skills**

* **Virtualization**: VMware (vSphere, ESXi, vCenter, VMotion, SRM, vRealize Suite), Hyper-V
* **Cloud Platforms**: Azure (Virtual Networks, Application Gateway, Automation, Log Analytics), VMware vCloud Suite
* **Server Administration**: Windows Server (2003–2019), Linux (RHEL, Debian), Active Directory
* **Automation & Scripting**: PowerShell, PowerCLI, VBScript, Terraform
* **Storage & Backup**: NetApp SAN/NAS, VMware vSAN, Tivoli Storage Manager, Backup Exec
* **Networking & Security**: Active Directory, DNS, DHCP, VPN, Rapid7, Qualys, Tenable, Nagios, SolarWinds

**Experience**

**Senior Systems Engineer**

**NORC**, Chicago, IL | Jul 2021 – Present

* Conducted vulnerability assessments using Rapid7, Tenable, and Qualys, reducing critical security risks by 30% and achieving compliance with internal security policies.
* Deployed and managed Azure resources, including Virtual Networks, Application Gateway, and Log Analytics, improving scalability and reducing operational costs by 15%.
* Designed and implemented disaster recovery solutions using VMware SRM, ensuring <1-hour downtime during simulated outages.
* Automated server provisioning workflows with PowerShell and PowerCLI, decreasing setup times by 40%.
* Built and upgraded Windows Servers (2012, 2016, 2019) across physical and virtual environments, ensuring high availability and reliability.
* Administered VMware Operations Manager Suite, providing actionable insights to optimize resource utilization and system performance.

**Senior Systems Engineer**

**Eli Lilly and Company**, Indianapolis, IN | Oct 2019 – Jun 2021

* Led Azure cloud integrations, streamlining enterprise infrastructure operations and reducing system latency by 20%.
* Implemented VMware SRM for disaster recovery, optimizing data replication and minimizing downtime during planned outages.
* Automated deployment processes using PowerShell and Puppet, increasing operational efficiency by 35%.
* Conducted data center migrations using VMware vSphere, ensuring seamless transitions across environments with minimal impact on operations.
* Integrated vRealize Automation and Operations, enhancing orchestration and improving system reliability.
* Administered and maintained server environments with Ivanti and Puppet, ensuring compliance with security standards.

**System Engineer**

**Ryder System,** Miami, Florida| Mar 2018 – Sep 2019

* Automated virtual machine provisioning and maintenance using PowerShell and PowerCLI, reducing deployment times by 50%.
* Migrated datastores using VMware vMotion, improving storage efficiency and reducing operational disruptions.
* Designed and implemented disaster recovery strategies with VMware SRM, ensuring continuous data protection for critical systems.
* Deployed Azure Virtual Networks, Application Gateway, and storage solutions, enhancing scalability and system performance.

**System Engineer**

**Valero Energy Corporation**, San Antonio, TX | Aug 2016 – Feb 2018

* Built and configured VMware ESXi hosts, leading large-scale P2V and V2V migrations with minimal downtime.
* Automated repetitive IT tasks using PowerShell scripts, improving response times and reducing manual effort by 40%.
* Deployed 200+ virtual desktops using VMware Horizon, meeting enterprise user requirements.
* Managed Active Directory components, including GPOs, DNS, and DHCP, ensuring secure and efficient network operations.

**VMware/Windows System Administrator**

**UC Health**, Aurora, CO | Dec 2014 – May 2016

* Deployed VMware ESXi hosts and managed virtual environments, optimizing resource allocation and improving uptime.
* Automated administrative tasks using PowerShell, enhancing operational efficiency and reducing errors.
* Monitored system performance and implemented WSUS for enterprise-wide patch management, ensuring compliance with IT standards.
* Collaborated with cross-functional teams to document and standardize processes per ITIL guidelines.

**VMware/Linux/Windows System Administrator**

**Northern Trust**, Chicago, IL | Aug 2012 – Nov 2014

* Designed and implemented disaster recovery solutions using VMware SRM, ensuring critical data replication across multiple sites.
* Administered VMware ESXi servers and clustered environments, leveraging vMotion, DRS, and HA for high availability.
* Automated routine administrative tasks with PowerShell and VBScript, reducing manual workloads by 30%.
* Managed Windows Server environments, including Active Directory, DNS, and DHCP, to ensure secure and efficient operations.

**Key Achievements**

* Automated workflows across multiple roles, reducing manual intervention by up to 50% and saving hundreds of hours annually.
* Led multiple large-scale server migration and data center projects, ensuring 99.9% uptime and minimal disruption.
* Deployed enterprise-wide monitoring and disaster recovery strategies, achieving compliance with business continuity goals.
* Improved security posture by addressing vulnerabilities across environments and driving timely remediation.