Blake Bratu

Sunbury, Ohio
336.541.0986 | bratublake@gmail.com | site.blakebratu.me

WORK EXPERIENCE

Cisco Systems **Feb. 2025 – Present**
Senior Security Technical Consultant Engineer (Escalation Engineer)

- Resolve security and connectivity issues across SASE, on-premises, and hybrid enterprise infrastructure for FedRAMP and commercial customers.
- Serve as an escalation point and VPN subject matter expert for a 20-engineer team.
- Design and validate workarounds for feature defects, working directly with product engineering to document and drive permanent fixes.
- Guide customers through SASE/SSE and network security configuration, maintaining 10/10 satisfaction across 50+ surveys.
- Oversee a team of 3 engineers, reviewing case quality, supporting escalations, and tracking training completion.
- Onboarded and mentored a cohort of 5 incoming engineers through case reviews and technical coaching.

Cisco Systems **Aug. 2022 – Feb. 2025**
Security Technical Consultant Engineer

- Built and maintained lab environments replicating customer firewall, VPN, and routing deployments to validate configurations, analyze pre-production behavior, and stage production rollouts.
- Identified, tested, and documented 10+ previously undiscovered firewall and router defects, developing workarounds and driving fixes through development teams.
- Resolved 500+ network and VPN security cases across on-premises and cloud environments, maintaining uptime for business-critical and financially sensitive infrastructure.
- Led live training on technologies such as Firepower clientless ZTNA and authored technical documentation for 30 engineers across two regional teams.
- Served as technical point of contact during outages, delivering status updates and briefings to engineering, account teams, and customer leadership.

CERTIFICATIONS

Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) | Cisco Certified Network Professional Security (CCNP Security) | Microsoft Azure Administrator (AZ-104) | Security+

SKILLS

- **Security & SASE:** ZTNA (Zero-Trust), Firewalls (ASA, FTD/Secure Firewall), FWaaS, IPS, Secure Web Gateway, DNS Security (Umbrella), Access Control, SSL/TLS, DLP, AI Guardrails
- **VPN:** Remote Access (AnyConnect/Secure Client), Site-to-Site, IPsec/GRE, IKEv1/v2, DMVPN, FlexVPN
- **Networking:** IOS-XE, BGP, ECMP, IPv6, NAT, DNS/DDNS, DHCP, Load Balancing, MTU/MSS tuning
- **Identity & Access:** SSO, SAML, PKI/Certificates, RADIUS, LDAP, MFA, RBAC, Posture/Profiling
- **Cloud Networking & Security:** AWS (VPC, routing, security groups/NACLs, IAM, Route 53, EC2) · Azure (VNets, NSGs, Entra ID) · hybrid and site-to-cloud connectivity
- **Automation & APIs:** Git, REST APIs (FTD, Secure Access), Postman/curl
- **Diagnostics & Systems:** Wireshark, packet and throughput analysis, HAR/browser analytics, Splunk, Grafana, vulnerability validation, Linux, ESXi, Windows/macOS

EDUCATION

Franklin University - *Bachelor's in Cloud Computing (In-Progress / August 2027)*
Guilford Technical Community College - *Associate in Network Management (Completed)*

- President and Founder of the Networking club, supporting students in developing networking/IT skills.

Other:

Hobbies: Horse-riding, 3D Art, Fitness.
Projects: github.com/FalloutSeeker/couriercollie