

Aja D. Burns

Senior Network Engineer | Routing, Security & Resiliency

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

CCNP Enterprise-certified network engineer with 13+ years of experience designing and supporting enterprise campus, data center, WAN, co-location, and cloud-connected infrastructure. Specialized in BGP, segmentation, multi-site resiliency, Palo Alto integration, and network assurance. Skilled at translating complex infrastructure requirements into validated, production-ready designs through lab modeling, documentation, and cross-functional collaboration.

CORE NETWORK AND SECURITY CAPABILITIES

- **Enterprise routing:** BGP, EIGRP, OSPF, VRFs, GRE, 802.1Q
- **Network security:** Palo Alto, Panorama, Fortinet, Cisco ASA, segmentation
- **Enterprise assurance:** Cisco Catalyst Center, ThousandEyes, telemetry, monitoring, validation
- **Resiliency design:** multi-site redundancy, WAN modernization, internet edge architecture
- **Cloud/network integration:** Megaport, AWS, hybrid connectivity
- **Documentation/lab validation:** Cisco CML, NetBox

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Network Engineer II

Jul 2024 – Jul 2026

United Wholesale Mortgage - Pontiac, MI

Cisco | Palo Alto | Cisco CML | Megaport | Noction IRP | NetBox

- Design and support routing, segmentation, and resiliency architecture across multi-building campus and co-location environments, including BGP, EIGRP, VRFs, Palo Alto integration, and redundant internet connectivity.
- Built Cisco CML models replicating production routing and firewall topologies to validate BGP, VRF, failover, and migration designs before implementation, reducing production change risk.
- Collaborated on IP addressing and routing designs for multiple VRFs, implementing iBGP, EIGRP underlay routing, and 802.1Q subinterfaces.
- Implemented dynamic routing between Palo Alto firewalls and enterprise routing domains, improving route convergence, reducing static-route dependency, and supporting scalable connectivity across security boundaries.
- Design and support third-party and cloud connectivity through Megaport, including BGP routing, redundant path design, route control, and integration with business-critical services.

Network Engineer I

Dec 2021 – Jul 2024

- Led a multi-building resiliency initiative to establish independent internet egress, redundant routing, and infrastructure survivability across enterprise facilities.
- Led deployment of Noction IRP across DIA circuits to optimize outbound path selection and improve internet-routing performance.
- Directed replacement and validation of rack-to-rack MPO fiber infrastructure, documenting end-to-end Layer 1 connectivity and cable relationships in NetBox.

Network Security Engineer

Jul 2019 – Dec 2021

Motherson / PKC Group - Farmington Hills, MI

Cisco | Fortinet | Aruba | Tenable Security Center | FortiManager

- Designed and supported secure WAN, firewall, switching, and wireless connectivity across manufacturing and office locations in the United States and Mexico.
- Used Tenable Security Center to review threat and vulnerability data, support remediation priorities, and strengthen security posture.
- Led FortiManager implementation to centralize firewall policy administration, improve configuration consistency, and strengthen compliance across distributed Fortinet environments.

Network Engineer

Jan 2018 – Apr 2019

Koch Business Solutions - Wichita, KS

Cisco | Viptela | F5

- Supported post-acquisition network integration between Koch and Guardian Industries, including IP renumbering, routing integration, and migration planning across international sites.
- Helped deploy Cisco Viptela SD-WAN across MPLS and internet transports, supporting migration to a more resilient and centrally managed WAN architecture.

Network Engineer

Oct 2016 – Jan 2018

SRG Global / Guardian Industries - Troy, MI

Cisco | Zscaler | AWS

- Served as lead network engineer for a 27-site global environment, owning network operations, infrastructure refreshes, site deployments, and escalation support.

Network Administrator

Apr 2013 – Oct 2016

AE&E Corporation - Livonia, MI

Cisco | HP | Open-E | Windows Server | Exchange | Hyper-V

- Provided network and server support for multiple businesses across Metro Detroit.
- Led creation of redundant SAN infrastructure with Windows Server Cluster Manager, Hyper-V, and a multi-tenant Exchange environment.

Technical Support Specialist

Nov 2011 – Apr 2013

Barracuda Networks – Ann Arbor, MI

- Provided backend Linux support for email security, SSL VPN, and firewall deployments.

EDUCATION

MBA, Information Systems Management

Detroit, MI | 2023

Wayne State University

BS, Networking & Information Systems Administration

Ypsilanti, MI | 2012

Eastern Michigan University

CERTIFICATIONS

- CCNP Enterprise
- CCNA

June 2026

October 2022