

Christopher Slater-Walker – Curriculum Vitae

General and Contact Details

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Secondary Education

September 1976-December 1983:

Loughborough Grammar School, Loughborough, Leics., UK.

11 O-Levels, all grades A to C: French, German, Russian, Latin, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Chemistry.

4 A-Levels: French (A), German (A), General Studies (A), English Literature (B).

Special Paper ("S-Level"): French (grade: merit).

University Education

University of Manchester, UK, 1985 – 1989

Bachelor of Arts in Russian Studies, grade II(i) honours

Other Further Education

1995 - 1996: West Hertfordshire College, Watford, Herts., UK.

2 A-Levels: Biology (B), Chemistry (B).

Other Details

I have held Cisco CCNP (routing & switching) and Cisco CCSP (security professional, no longer available) but they have expired. I regained the CCNA (routing & switching) in August 2016. But as well as that I've been working in network engineering on networks small and large for 25 years!

I have a little self-taught experience with coding in Python.

I can speak French, German and Bulgarian, with rusty Russian and a bit of Spanish.

Career History

March 2025 – Present

London Luton Airport Operations Ltd.

- IT Network Engineer
- This is the UK's fifth-busiest airport mainly serving leisure destinations but also some major cities across Europe and the Middle East.
 - o 3rd-line support for all network (wired and wireless) operational issues. This includes both the Airport's own systems and those of retailers and restaurants etc. within the Airport.
 - o Gained understanding of the VPLS core of the existing network.
 - o Engaged in an ongoing project to replace HP Comware equipment with Aruba CX OS. This includes a complete replacement of the core, distribution and edge layers.
 - o Migration of dense-mode IP multicast to sparse mode.
 - o Ongoing project to replace RADIUS authentication by Microsoft NPS with Aruba ClearPass.
 - o Replaced existing Palo Alto firewalls with new PA-3430 models. Regular security policy updates, creation of new and maintenance of existing IPSEC tunnels.
 - o Participation in on-call rota.

August 2018 – March 2025

Advanced Computer Software (www.oneadvanced.com)

- Senior Network Engineer
- Advanced is the UK's third-largest business software and services company. I worked on site at a private healthcare company, St. Andrew's Healthcare, in Northampton.
 - o Operational maintenance, support and development of the St Andrew's LAN and WAN, including switching, routing, wireless and integration into managed MPLS WAN services. Some multicast work.
 - o Commissioning of new sites, including new wireless provision and connection to the company WAN, routing (BGP, OSPF) and switching provision.
 - o Migrated the on-site multicast IPTV system from dense mode to sparse mode.
 - o Changed the firewall from Checkpoint to Cisco FTD.

- o Introduced MPLS across the network in order to logically separate the network according to business requirements.
- o Re-modelled the whole wireless network (1700+ access points) to introduce a logical RF layout and consistency of configuration across the estate.
- o Migrated the entire wireless network from Extreme to Cisco Meraki.
- o Regular changes made to firewall policy & NAT. Creation of new firewall interfaces. Implementation of VPN tunnels. Integrated the firewalls into OSPF and BGP routing.
- o Having previously worked only with Cisco, familiarised myself with HP Comware and ProCurve.
- o OSPF cost changes across the network to optimise traffic flows, in preparation for campus-wide MPLS.
- o Implemented Cisco ISE for various wireless authentication requirements, and to provide different levels of Internet access through new authorisation profiles and dynamic VLAN assignment.
- o Self-trained in VMware ESXi.
- o Did some diagnostic wireless surveys using Ekahau.
- o Large-scale BGP routing changes associated with the migration to SD-WAN (resolution of asymmetric routing, making routing more deterministic by using path-prepend to rank peering sites into primary/secondary/tertiary).

August 2017 – July 2018

Morgan Sindall (Contract)

- Network Engineer
- Morgan Sindall is a leading construction company involved in major UK infrastructure projects (M5 Oldbury Viaduct, Thames Tideway, Crossrail, Manchester Airport Relief Road) as well as new homes and office new builds and rebuilds.
 - o Installation of new LANs in refurbished and new-build offices, including switching, routing, wireless and integration into managed MPLS WAN services.
 - o Configuration of QoS for the corporate cloud-based IP telephony service.
 - o WAN expansion including integration into existing mainly Cisco-based OSPF and integration into managed MPLS WAN services.
 - o Cisco ASA troubleshooting and configuration.
 - o General network operation and support duties.

August 2016 – April 2017

o2 WiFi (Contract)

- Network Deployment Engineer
- o2 WiFi manages public WiFi services for a large number of clients of varying sizes, including McDonalds, Costa Coffee, David Lloyd Lesiure etc.
 - o Rollout of Cisco routers and wireless access points to client sites.
 - o Troubleshooting of network problems at client sites.
 - o Dealt with taking over management of one client's access points into our own systems, involving conversion of autonomous access points to lightweight, controller-based mode.

April 2016 – July 2016

Arqiva WiFi (now Virgin Media WiFi)

- Senior Service Support Engineer in the WiFi NOC
- Arqiva managed public WiFi services for a number of large clients, e.g. UK airports (Heathrow, Luton, Edinburgh...); Premier Inn; Travelodge; Enterprise Inns, involving thousands of sites and tens of thousands of wireless access points, the majority being Cisco.
 - o Various troubleshooting tasks involving Linux: sorting out the NTP infrastructure, email server problems (Postfix, Exim).
 - o Various BASH scripts written for ad-hoc requirements.
 - o Troubleshooting of routing and switching issues on the company network.
 - o Management of Cisco Wireless Controllers.

April 2013 – November 2015

HCL Great Britain Ltd.

- Transferred into HCL under TUPE as part of Nokia's outsourcing of IT functions. When Microsoft bought the phone manufacturing operations of Nokia, I was working on behalf of Microsoft rather than Nokia.
- Consultant.
 - o Continued with many of the activities which were previously under Nokia.
 - o Participated in the integration of the ex-Nokia and Microsoft networks. This involved a complex NAT configuration at multiple points around the world.
 - o Implemented Microsoft's wireless SSIDs at ex-Nokia sites (while they were effectively still on a separate network) using anchor WLAN controllers (Cisco) at hub sites.

- o Participated in the replacement of Nokia's own MPLS network with a third-party managed MPLS service.
- o Implemented new WAN acceleration for the R&D network using Riverbed equipment.
- o Replaced some now old Cisco Catalyst 6500s with Catalyst 6800.
- o Trained colleagues in WAN acceleration and QoS.
- o Made redundant in November 2015.

February 2008 – April 2013

Nokia UK Ltd.

- Transferred into Nokia under TUPE
- Senior Network Engineer
 - o Third-line network support.
 - o Operational maintenance and development of a global MPLS-based network (our own MPLS, not a service managed by a third party).
 - o Integration of the ex-Symbian network into the Nokia network, involving a complete change of IP addressing on the Symbian network; then firewalling between the two networks, followed by complete integration with MPLS.
 - o Responsible for network Quality of Service (QoS).
 - o Implemented WAN acceleration for phone factories using Cisco WAAS.
 - o Responsible for connectivity with third-party collaborators (several hundred), using both leased lines and Internet-based IPSEC VPNs.
 - o Responsible for global wireless networks. These were universally implemented using Cisco WLAN controllers, either on the site or remote.
 - o Responsible for the network part of a new global video conferencing system.
 - o Responsible for the Radius servers used to authenticate clients of certain wireless networks.
 - o Implemented a new logical network (i.e. a new MPLS VPN) for surveillance systems (cameras and door controls) so that the cameras etc. could be monitored by third-party security contractors.
 - o Migrated the global routing table/MPLS VPN (used by most desktop and laptops) to a new named MPLS VPN.
 - o Member of the "Factory Networks" team, which was responsible for the LAN and WAN inside mobile phone factories, many of which were 24/7 operations. Participated in the programme to replace HP LAN equipment with Cisco Nexus.
 - o Passed the MPLS and BGP exam parts of Cisco CCIP.

November 2004 – February 2008

Symbian Software Ltd.

- Senior Network Engineer
 - o General network engineering in a Cisco router and switch environment.
 - o Management and operation of an international network connected with Internet-based VPNs on Checkpoint firewalls.
 - o Management of a high-speed (2.5Gbps, was fast at the time!), expanded to include 2 new sites. This used MPLS in order to keep different logical networks separate (e.g. office, server-dmz, Internet, etc.)
 - o Checkpoint firewalls between the different logical networks.
 - o Implemented global server load balancing using Cisco CSS. Later replaced these with F5 BigIP and iRules.
 - o Implemented controller-based Cisco wireless networking, replacing autonomous access points.
 - o Managed replacement of parts of the international WAN with a managed MPLS service.
 - o Added new sites in Bangalore, Beijing and Sydney to the network.
 - o Participated in the implementation of an Avaya IP telephony system; configured QoS on the network; set up DHCP servers for the phones to receive their configuration.
 - o Implemented WAN acceleration using Riverbed equipment.
 - o Participated in the implementation of a global video conferencing system.
 - o Third-line network support.

October 2001 – November 2004

beTRUSTed UK Ltd.

beTRUSTed was a company, originally set up by Price Waterhouse, specialising in PKI infrastructures for commercial companies; and secure data hosting.

- Senior Network Specialist in a Cisco-based network.
 - o Experience with a wide range of Cisco equipment: Catalyst 6500, 4500, 3560, 7500-series routers.
 - o Implemented quality of service (QoS) configurations for a new IP Telephony system.
 - o Implemented server load-balancing with Cisco Local Director.
 - o Replaced Cisco PIX firewalls with Checkpoint Firewall-1. Also responsible for operational support and management of these firewalls.
 - o Participated in building a complete new data centre, consisting of a multi-layer Cisco-based network, with direct Internet connectivity in its own Internet AS, receiving 2 full Internet routing table feeds, BGP advertising our own routes.
 - o Gained Cisco CCSP (Cisco Certified Security Professional) for the first time.

April 2000 – October 2001

Universal Music UK

- Network engineer
 - o General network engineering on the Europe-wide Cisco-based WAN. Mainly Cisco 4700/2500/2600/3600 series routers.
 - o Second-line network support.
 - o Responsible for LAN operations in various locations around London (mostly Cisco Catalyst, mixture of small switches, Cat4000, Cat6000; Nortel in the largest London location). Both Ethernet and token ring.
 - o Mainly OSPF used as the routing protocol; EIGRP introduced due to taking over another company network. EIGRP migrated to OSPF.
 - o Cisco data-link switching (DLSW) for IBM mainframe connectivity.
 - o Cisco PIX (mainly PIX520) used as the company firewall.
 - o Experience with Cisco-based IPSEC VPNs.
 - o Gained CCNP for the first time.

September 1998 – April 2000

King's College School, Wimbledon

- Information Systems Manager

- One of the top 5 independent schools in the UK
 - o Operational management and development of the school's IT estate: created a new computer suite in the Junior School, new PCs in every classroom, new administration PCs; replaced the existing Windows 3.1 network with 2 new Windows NT4 domains (one for teaching, one for school administration). New NT4 servers to replace the old OS/2 servers.
 - o Development of the school's network: extended fibre to more buildings and classrooms. Removed the old coax cabling which still existed in parts and replaced with switched Ethernet using Cat5 cabling.
 - o Created a new centralised e-mail service using Microsoft Exchange.
 - o Upgraded the school's Internet connectivity from a single ISDN BRI (64Kbps) to 4 bonded ISDN BRI (256Kbps) using a Cisco2600 series router.

September 1997 – September 1998

Anite Computing Ltd.

- Windows Support Engineer
 - o Working on a contract with a UK cross-channel ferry company to install a Windows NT4 or Windows 95 PC on every desk, together with a new Microsoft Exchange e-mail infrastructure. Also installation of new PCs at all the southern UK ports and on all the cross-channel ferries.

December 1996 – September 1997

Tandem Computers Ltd.

- TNSC Support Specialist (TNSC=Tandem Non-stop Support Centre)
 - o Multilingual (English, French, German, Russian) support specialist in Tandem's "Non-stop Support Centre" in Stockley Park (near Heathrow) for high-availability Windows NT clusters.
 - o Special secondment to Tandem HQ in California to work on a software product for creating high-availability and high-performance web servers (essentially load balancing incoming requests across a number of servers).
 - o Attended several training courses to gain Microsoft MCSE.

April 1991 – December 1996

Thames Water PLC

Thames Water is the largest water supply company in the UK in terms of people supplied. It covers large areas of southern England.

- System Analyst (Grade F; grade G was the highest non-managerial grade here).
 - o Service level management: service level reporting based on gathering and collating large amounts of computing resource and performance data in an IBM mainframe and PR1ME computer environment.
 - o Monthly presentations of achieved service levels to management.
 - o Created a new reporting application in *The SAS System* to replace the existing one.
 - o The company introduced a new application for mapping the location of underground water pipes and electricity cables, so that work crews could print them at their depot. This consisted of an IBM DB/2 database on mainframe, together with OS/2-based PCs at depots; maps were regularly updated to the PCs over the X.25 network. I took over operational support of this application.
 - o The mainframe part used COBOL to update the mapping database. This required some debugging (even though I had no COBOL experience at the time).
 - o The OS/2 part was very unstable initially (kept crashing!) so I had to liaise with a third-party software developer, combined with regular visits to work depots across the Thames Water area to improve the software.

September 1989 - April 1991

Grand Metropolitan Information Services (now part of Diageo)

- Technical Planner
 - o Capacity planning for IBM mainframe (MVS and VM) and AS/400. Daily use of *The SAS System* (www.sas.com) for reporting against SMF/RMF records and AS/400 performance data; and for ad-hoc reporting when investigating reported performance issues.
 - o Regular meetings with business units to determine future business plans and their likely impact on computing resources.

References available on request.