

Joachim Opdenakker

Network Engineer

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Personal Profile

I am dedicated to designing and deploying carrier-grade infrastructure.

Currently steering network engineering and architecture at SURF. My expertise in Peering, MPLS, Ethernet VPN and automation drives the development of the robust IP backbone. The team's success is powered by collaborative efforts in engineering, change management and automation, which are essential components of our cutting-edge services.

During my QA Internship at Nokia, I acquired a solid foundation in network monitoring tools and a hands-on approach to network operating system quality assurance. My prior role as a Network Development Engineer at AWS honed my competencies in change management and working with deployment pipelines. My current focus remains on leveraging open-source solutions and advanced networking protocols to ensure superior connectivity and security.

Core Skills

- Network Architecture and Engineering
- Peering & Interconnects
- MPLS & EVPN
- Network Automation
- Quality Assurance
- Change Management
- DDoS Mitigation
- Project Leadership
- Vendor Management

Career Summary

August 2022 **Network Engineer - Core & Internet Edge**
– **Present** **SURF, NREN, Utrecht, The Netherlands**

Role outline

Network Engineer within the Team Experts Networks. I focus on building no-compromise internet and private networking services for customers. Main projects include peering and capacity management, working on the architecture of the next generation network.

March 2022 **QA Engineering Intern - IP Networks**
– **June 2022** **Nokia ION (IP Optical Networks) R&D, Antwerp, Belgium**

Role outline

As a graduation internship, I worked on automated testing infrastructure for Nokia Service Router products and features.

September 2020 **Network Development Engineer Intern - DataCenter Network Engineering**
– **July 2021** **Amazon Web Services (AWS), Dublin, Ireland**

Role outline

Working within the DCNE organization on large scale mixed vendor fabrics. Focus on shifting traffic to new cloud fabrics based on merchant silicon boxes.

July 2018 **Network Engineer**
– **July 2020** **Belnet, NREN, Brussels, Belgium**

Role outline

First experience working on an ISP network. Building CMDB for automation infrastructure. Developing some small automation tools based on Juniper PyEZ.

Personal Development

2023	Get started with Businessplan (Training)
2023	ITILv4 (Training)
2023	Ribbon Communications DWDM (Training)
2020	Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) (Certification)
2015 – 2023	ULYSSIS Member, former Vice-president (Student organization)

ULYSSIS is a non profit which provides IT services to students and university personel of the KU Leuven association. During my time with ULYSSIS, I served as vice-president for 1 academic year. Other main responsibilities include: answering support tickets via e-mail, building webapplications in PHP, system administration on Linux (Mail, Web, DNS, LDAP, Databases (MySQL, PostgreSQL), etc). In 2016 I was lead-designer of an outdoor ethernet network. ULYSSIS uses this network during the annual 24-hour student run in Leuven to provide network connectivity for the RFID-based lap-counting system as well as internet for supporters and visitors of the event. During 2016 and 2017 I was lead network administrator during the event (24/24) which also involved preparations during the weeks preceding the event. Starting in 2018 I served as an advisor during the deployment of the wired and wireless equipment and focused on the administration. In 2019 I served as an advisor for a major redesign of the network to a more robust and easy-to-deploy wired network. In 2021 I took a step back and only served as a back-up administrator during the night shift. The redesigned network of 2019 proved its robustness and was easy to setup by new members of the team. <https://ulyssis.org>

Education

2017 - 2022	Applied Informatics (UC Leuven Limburg) Specialization Systems- and network administration. Class of 2022
2015 - 2017	BSc, Informatica (KU Leuven) not completed