

VAHID NAZARI

Data Center Network Architect | Instructor and Consultant

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PROFILE

DC Network Architect with 12+ years of experience designing, implementing, and delivering complex large-scale data center fabrics and enterprise network infrastructures. Proven track record of leading full life-cycle deployments, including rescuing and successfully delivering projects previously deemed failed. Deep expertise in Cisco ACI, VXLAN, and SDN technologies, with strong hands-on proficiency across multi-vendor L2/L3 protocols including BGP, OSPF, and EIGRP. Experienced in integrating VMware, Kubernetes, and cloud-native platforms into DC fabric environments. Delivers end-to-end client engagements covering architecture, implementation, technical documentation, and staff training — combining engineering depth with strategic advisory capabilities for enterprise clients.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cisco ACI Solution Architect & Technical Trainer Golrang System (GIG) — Tehran, Iran

Apr 2026 – Present (Part-time)

- Built a dedicated ACI hardware lab and a custom ACI Practical training curriculum, advised on the equipment Bill of Materials for a new data center build, and led technology briefings to align stakeholders on ACI adoption.

Cisco ACI SME & Data Center Fabric Consultant Tehran Securities Exchange (TSE) — Tehran, Iran

Mar 2021 – Present (Part-time)

- Took over an **ACI fabric** that had sat unresolved for **6 months** after a failed implementation, rearchitected it end-to-end on an **App-Centric policy model**, and brought it to production.
- Sustained **99.998% uptime** over 3+ years post-deployment (just **10 minutes of downtime in 4 years**), supporting business-critical exchange operations with zero major service disruptions.
- Delivered one of the earliest production Cisco ACI deployments in Iran's financial sector, earning long-term client retention for ongoing support and optimization beyond initial delivery.
- Led the operation and optimization of core data center switching and routing infrastructure, driving network stability improvements and leading a comprehensive BGP redesign initiative.

Senior Data Center Consultant | Cisco ACI SME & Instructor Tourism Bank — Tehran, Iran

Dec 2024 – Mar 2026 (Contract)

- Led design and deployment of a **~40-device Multi-Tenant ACI fabric**, transforming the bank's legacy VLAN architecture into an application-centric, Zero-Trust infrastructure.
- Delivered the App-Centric design in **4 months** and completed migration of **4 tenants and 250+ EPGs** within **6 months**, including a new IP addressing plan and multi-vendor integration with VMware NSX, WAF, and firewall platforms.
- Automated provisioning and migration workflows with Python and MS SQL, cutting manual errors and accelerating delivery; authored all HLD/LLD and IP planning documentation to compliance standard.
- Trained internal engineers on DCACI/DCACIA using in-house hardware labs, building lasting in-house ACI capability for the bank.

Cisco ACI SME & Data Center Fabric Consultant Shabakeh Banan (Pazh Co.) — Tehran, Iran

Jan 2022 – Mar 2026 (Contract)

- Delivered full-cycle ACI fabric design, implementation, and optimization for enterprise clients with a **100% project success rate**, while cutting delivery timelines by **30%** through automation and process refinement.
- Grew ACI-related project acquisition by **50%** by leading client-facing technical workshops and live demos that translated directly into new business.
- Designed and delivered custom ACI solutions for 20–50-rack enterprise environments, applying Cisco SAFE and modular block architecture as lead architect.

Network and Data Center Engineer

Jun 2016 – Mar 2022

Sadad Electronic Payment — Tehran, Iran

- Modernized the mission-critical DC fabric behind high-volume banking and payment transactions, maintaining **>99.99% SLA** through the entire transition with zero unplanned downtime.
- Lifted network performance by **40%** through a core infrastructure refresh on Cisco Nexus 9K/5K/2K and ASR platforms.
- Engineered a VXLAN-based fabric overlay across data centers and redesigned L3 routing (OSPF, BGP, EIGRP with multi-VRF segmentation), improving convergence and security boundaries.

Network Security Engineer

Dec 2015 – Jun 2016 (Contract)

Hamrahe Aval (MCI) – Tehran, Iran

- Deployed redundant, high-throughput Juniper firewall architecture, expanding internet bandwidth capacity and hardening core network stability; trained MCI engineers on the resulting setup.

Network and Systems Administrator

Mar 2014 – Nov 2015

Iranian Informatics Development – Tehran, Iran

- Delivered **>99.9% uptime** across DC and campus LAN for a leading private insurer, while optimizing 400+ VMware vSphere VMs for resource efficiency.

TECHNICAL TRAINING DELIVERED

Hundreds of hours of advanced instruction on Cisco DCCOR, VXLAN MP-BGP EVPN, and Cisco ACI (DCACI/DCACIA) across banking and enterprise clients:

- Tehran Securities Exchange (TSE), Iran Zamin Bank, Sadad PSP, Eghtesad Novin Bank, Mellat Bank (SITS Co.), Tourism Bank, Golran System — 2022–2026

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Data Center Fabric: Cisco ACI (Single Pod, Multi-Pod, Multi-Site, Multi-Tenant, Network-Centric & Application-Centric), VXLAN MP-BGP EVPN, Cisco SAFE & modular architecture, Open SDN

Integrations: ACI + Kubernetes, ACI + VMware NSX, ACI + OpenStack; container networking (Calico, Cilium)

Routing & Switching: BGP, OSPF, EIGRP, VRF & route leakage, NAT, VLANs/PVLANS, STP, VPC/VSS/Stack, LISP, OTV, L2TPv3

Platforms: Cisco Nexus 9K/7K/5K/2K, ASR, Catalyst 8K; Cisco UCS; VMware vSphere/ESXi

Security: Fortigate, Juniper SRX, Palo Alto

Automation: Python, Ansible, Docker CLI

EDUCATION

B.Sc., Computer and Hardware Engineering — Qazvin Azad University, Qazvin, Iran (2010)