



Christophe Lucas Fearless Sterkens

Network & Systems Engineer

System · Software · Security · Privacy

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Experience

District09 | System Network Administrator (phased return to work)

2026 📍 Ghent

Network engineering for the City of Ghent's IT services organization.

- Enterprise switching and routing across Aruba and Alcatel-Lucent fleets (incl. AP migration to Aruba). L3, ACLs, IS-IS, BGP, and fiber work.
- NAC with Active Directory integration for network access control.
- Palo Alto firewall deployment and configuration.
- Infoblox for DNS, DHCP, and IPAM.
- Automation and observability with Ansible and Elastic.
- On-site rack and cabling work within the broader infrastructure team.

Confident IT Consultancy | Founder (self-employed)

2017–2024 📍 Antwerp & Ghent

Independent IT consultancy for SMBs across hospitality, retail, maritime, and adjacent sectors.

- Long-form direct IT management for client businesses, including multi-year retainers in hospitality and serviced office sectors.
- International subcontracting through specialist partners on maritime networking projects.
- Vendor management, on-site deployment, and platform/infrastructure operations across the entire portfolio.

Antwerp Business Suites — boutique hotel & serviced office, Antwerp

- Migrated the wireless from Aerohive onto a consolidated UniFi architecture, re-deploying the existing Allied Telesis switching across floors, with VLAN re-adoption for the existing IP phone fleet.
- Decommissioned on-prem AD; moved mail to Google Workspace, web to Squarespace, hosting to DigitalOcean; replaced legacy RDP workflows with VPN access.
- Installed a CCTV system with on-site NAS recording and off-site cloud backup.
- Reduced ongoing MSP, SLA, and licensing costs against a one-time hardware investment.

European Management Solutions (EuroMS) — maritime networking / superyachts

- Multi-WAN bonded connectivity (VSAT + multi-cellular + WiFi WAN) for superyacht clients, coordinating with European satellite providers.
- Network architecture across multiple decks: VLAN segmentation for crew, guest, and IoT/sensor traffic; UniFi controller and firewall.
- Migrated legacy on-prem Windows Server onto a consolidated 2U NAS with virtualized services (AD, mail, UniFi, internal chat).
- International project work across Mediterranean ports.

Purple Puppet — animation studio, Bruges

- Designed and deployed a new local network with proper security and firewall segmentation.
- Stood up a Microsoft 365 environment with cloud directory services.
- Deployed Peplink multi-WAN bonded hardware for frequently-traveling staff.
- Implemented local backup and recovery, with improved RDP workflows for remote work.
- Consolidated software licensing and advised on hardware cost optimization.

AMPLR | Chief Technology Officer

2021–2022 📍 Ghent Region

Owned the technical platform at a B2B networking startup serving hospitality and retail across Belgium and the Netherlands.

- Architected and operated the connectivity platform at customer sites: multi-vendor topology with Ubiquiti UniFi, TP-Link, and Peplink Balance routers.
- Built and operated the cloud platform: virtualized controllers and bonding hubs, fronted

Skills

Networking

Aruba, Alcatel-Lucent, Allied Telesis, Aerohive, Ubiquiti, TP-Link, Peplink · BGP, OSPF, IS-IS, L3, VLANs, ACLs · multi-WAN bonding, VSAT · Infoblox · fiber & rack work

Firewalls & Security

Palo Alto, Fortinet, pfSense, OPNsense, IPFire, Barracuda, Meraki · Suricata / IDS-IPS · WireGuard, OpenVPN · NAC

Cloudflare

DNS, CDN, Tunnels, Zero Trust, WAF, Pages, Workers

Cloud & Identity

Azure AD / Entra, Microsoft 365, Intune · Google Workspace · Active Directory · SSO · GDPR compliance

Docker & Containers

Daily driver for self-hosted & production · Nginx · Compose workflows · container networking

Linux

Debian, Fedora, Ubuntu · daily CLI and desktop · Proxmox homelab · server administration

Databases & Hosting

MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, SQLite, Redis · cPanel, DirectAdmin, 1Panel · LiteSpeed

Automation & Monitoring

Ansible · Elastic · uptime and service monitoring · 3-2-1 backup strategy · mailbox and site management

Programming

Python · Go · Bun · Deno · Rust (learning) · shell scripting

Languages

Dutch Native

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English Professional

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French Elementary

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Finnish Elementary

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Education

Bachelor Graphic & Digital Media

Arteveldehogeschool · 2010–2011

by Cloudflare and Nginx, deployed through Docker.

- Established two strategic vendor partnerships: TP-Link and Peplink (API and CLI feedback into vendor roadmaps).
- Built out physical security: IP cameras, DVR, and door access integrated into the site platform.
- Technical management of a Network Engineering bachelor intern, including formal evaluation reporting.

Larian Studios | *IT Manager*

2019–2021 📍 Ghent

IT operations at an international game development studio through the development of Baldur's Gate 3.

- Administered the company-wide platform stack: identity and SSO, collaboration tools, project management, version control for game assets, build orchestration, and perimeter firewall.
- Modernized a flat local-admin Windows network onto a managed enterprise stack: Active Directory, Azure AD, Intune, Microsoft 365, and Palo Alto next-gen firewall.
- Supported the shift to fully remote operations and the IT buildout of the new Kuala Lumpur office.
- Dedicated storage and access separation for the finance team in line with GDPR; collaborated with the DPO.
- Single point of contact for IT operations: procurement, hardware lifecycle, license management, vendor relationships, and end-user support.

Leapp | *Store Manager & Technical Manager*

2015–2018 📍 Antwerp Region

Led the Belgian technical operation of a multi-country Apple refurbisher (seven shops); later responsible for the Antwerp flagship store.

- Hands-on refurbishment: RAM/SSD upgrades, screen work, and AZERTY keyboard conversions across iMacs, MacBooks, iPhones, and iPads.
- Rolled out an in-store Service Agent role (Apple Genius model) across the seven Belgian shops.
- Built leappOS: a stripped-down macOS USB image for hardware testing and refurb prep.
- Fortinet security stack at HQ (VPN, VLAN, DHCP, DNS) and UniFi across all shops; phones to 3CX/VoIP, company to Google Workspace.

Ricall Repair Services | *Store Manager & Service Technician*

2013–2015 📍 Antwerp Region

Ran the Antwerp store from opening as lead technician for complex repairs. Built up local business clientele; developed the MediaMarkt Antwerp partnership including an in-store repair desk.

Red Hat & Lionbridge | *Datacenter Technician & QA Engineer*

2012–2013 📍 San Antonio, USA & Tampere, Finland

- Tier 1 dashboard monitoring and ticket creation for the engineering team (Red Hat).
- Datacenter floor work: fiber upgrades (multimode to singlemode), switch and breakout-panel swaps, rack relocations, and storage adjustments.
- Followed engineer-authored runbooks to adjust LUN and DAS storage to customer requirements.
- Multilingual QA: spell-checking and UI testing of Dutch, German, and Swedish builds for Microsoft and Nokia's mobile platform (Lionbridge).