Ralf Ulrich Garbe

Enterprise Architect | Digital Transformation Leader | Founder

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Enterprise Architect & Technology Leader with 25+ years of experience guiding digital transformation, modernizing infrastructure, and building cyber-resilient systems globally in multinational environments. Skilled at inspiring diverse teams, scaling complex enterprise architectures, and delivering measurable business outcomes. Striving for excellence through motivation, strategic vision, attention to detail, and continuous growth in skills and experience.

Core Skills

Hard/Technical Skills

Enterprise Architecture • Strategic Planning • Digital Transformation • Security-by-Design • Cyber Defence • Continious Operation • Infrastructure Consolidation • Information Assurance • Agile Leadership • Risk Mitigation • System Integration • Technology Roadmaps

Soft Skills

Promote Excellency • Think Innovative • Communicate Clear • Convincing and Approchable • Lead Divers and Multidisceplinary Teams • Encourage and Build Teams • Plan Holisticly • Learn from Mistakes • Take Responsibility • Assess Fair • Listen Actively • Be Open and Friendly

Education

Master of Science Information Technologies • Professional Trainee Defence Administration • TOGAF • SCRUM Master • Management Development • Risk Managment • Crypto Management

Experience

Head of Engineering and Enterprise Architecture
NATO, Brussels, Belgium | Dec 2018 – Present

Directing enterprise architecture and engineering for NATO's global IT infrastructure supporting, integrating and transform a mid-size highly complex network with 10,000+ users at 50+ nations/organizations at 1,000+ sites. Key achievements include clear system architecture, datacenter consolidation (50% reduction), high-availability designs (zero-downtime) and embedding security-by-design across all architecture domains.

Head of Information Assurance and Cyber Defence
NATO, Brussels, Belgium | Sep 2004 – Nov 2018

Directed enterprise-wide cybersecurity and information assurance programs ensuring protection of classified data. Established compliant security policy frameworks and led multinational teams in accreditation and cyber defense operations. Key achievements include logical and structured documentation framework, full cycle risk assessment, clear security requirements, streamlined accreditation, architectural artefacts, informaiton flow descriptions.

Founder & Managing Director - ClassifyIt
Private Sector | 2006 – Present

Founded and developed ClassifyIt, a micro-tool for security classification of Microsoft Office documents, ensuring compliance with regulations such as ISO 27001, GDPR, and governmental standards.

2007 - today	**Founder & Managing Director - ClassifyIt**
	Private Sector – Micro-Company
	Founded and developed ClassifyIt, a Microsoft Office add-in enhancing document and email classification, compliance, and data protection. Delivers advanced metadata handling, sensitivity labeling, and secure data governance for enterprises.
1 August 1999 – 31 August 2004	**System Engineer – Information Technologies**
	Governmental Agency
	IT Amt Bundeswehr (part of German Ministry of Defence), Koblenz, Germany – National provided to: NATO BICES Agency, Boulevard Leopold III, 1110 Brussels, Belgium
	▪ Network engineering
	▪ Application engineering
	▪ Information Security activities
	▪ Accreditation support
	▪ Staff supervisory and management tasks.
1 February 1999 – 31 July 1999	**Deputy Head of Computer Centre**
	Governmental Agency - Defence
	Bundesamt für Wehrtechnik und Beschaffung (BWB) (Defense Technology and Procurement), WTD 61, Manching, Germany
	▪ Oversight and execution to run, maintain and improve a mid size computer network.
	▪ Represent the Head of Computer Centre during his absence.
	▪ Procure and develop the computer system.
1 May 1998 – 31 January 1999	**Professional Trainee**
	Governmental Agency – Defence Technology, Law, Regulation
	Bundesamt für Wehrtechnik und Beschaffung (BWB), Koblenz, Germany
	▪ Professional trainee for qualification as civil servant in senior service, with emphasis on military electrical and information technologies.
1 September 1990 – 31 January 1996	**Master of Science Information Technologies (Diplominformatiker)**
	University - Technical
	Universität Karlsruhe, Germany
	Computer Science encompassing: Mathematics, Logic, Algorithms, Physics, Integrated Circuits, Complexity Assessments, Simulation
Mother tongue(s)	German
Other languages	English: Proficient in Speaking, Writing and Understanding
Social skills	Appreciation of fairness, equity and dignity. Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with people of different national, cultural and educational backgrounds – iow diverse teams. Share relevant information with key stakeholder regularly and appropriately.
Organisational / managerial skills	Attention to details, analytical approach, focus oriented, priority driven, taking responsibilities, following higher level guidance/policy, balanced, multi tasking, innovative
Technical skills	Core understanding of physical, mechanical and electronic matters.
Computer skills	Programming (Delphi), using vulnerability assessment tools, using office applications (word, excel, visio, outlook, powerpoint)
Other skills	Reliable, tolerant, logical skills, physical understanding, endurance
Driving licence	Car, Motorbike, Truck