

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB DETAILS	
Job Title	Network Architect
Reports to	Network Manager
Band	7 (subject to consistency checking)
Department/Directorate	Digital Services Division

JOB PURPOSE
The Network Architect is responsible for the design, development, governance and continual improvement of the Trust's network infrastructure architecture. The post holder will support the technical leadership by ensuring solutions are secure, resilient, scalable and aligned to organisational and NHS digital strategies across all aspects of enterprise networking. The role will act as the Trust's senior technical authority for network architecture, leading the design and assurance of infrastructure solutions supporting clinical, operational and corporate services, including major transformation programmes, healthcare initiatives and regional partner integrations. The post holder will establish architectural and security standards, produce technical documentation and roadmaps, evaluate emerging technologies, and ensure all network solutions comply with security, governance, performance and interoperability requirements.

KEY RESULT AREAS/PRINCIPAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- Define enterprise architecture standards for LAN, WAN, WLAN, SD-WAN, cloud networking, network security and remote access technologies. - Lead the design of complex network solutions supporting clinical and business-critical services. - Ensure network infrastructure aligns with NHS, Cyber Security and Digital Transformation strategies. - Review and approve high-impact infrastructure designs before implementation. - Establish design principles that promote resilience, scalability, service continuity and information security. - Evaluate emerging technologies and assess their applicability within the Trust environment. - Maintain architecture repositories, standards and technical documentation. - Produce and review High-Level Designs (HLDs) and Low-Level Designs (LLDs). - Ensure documentation remains accurate and aligned with governance requirements. - Maintain technology roadmaps, service models and infrastructure standards. - Monitor industry trends, NHS technology developments and emerging networking technologies. - Evaluate new products and solutions through proof-of-concept activities. - Identify opportunities to improve service delivery, resilience and security through innovation. - Support strategic digital transformation initiatives through technical research and architectural guidance. - Provide technical input into infrastructure procurement and investment planning. - Develop technical specifications for replacement and expansion programmes. - Assess cost-benefit and total-cost-of-ownership impacts of proposed solutions. - Support budget forecasting for infrastructure lifecycle management initiatives. - Act as a role model and provide support to junior members of the team.

KEY WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Areas of Responsibility: Network Infrastructure Architecture

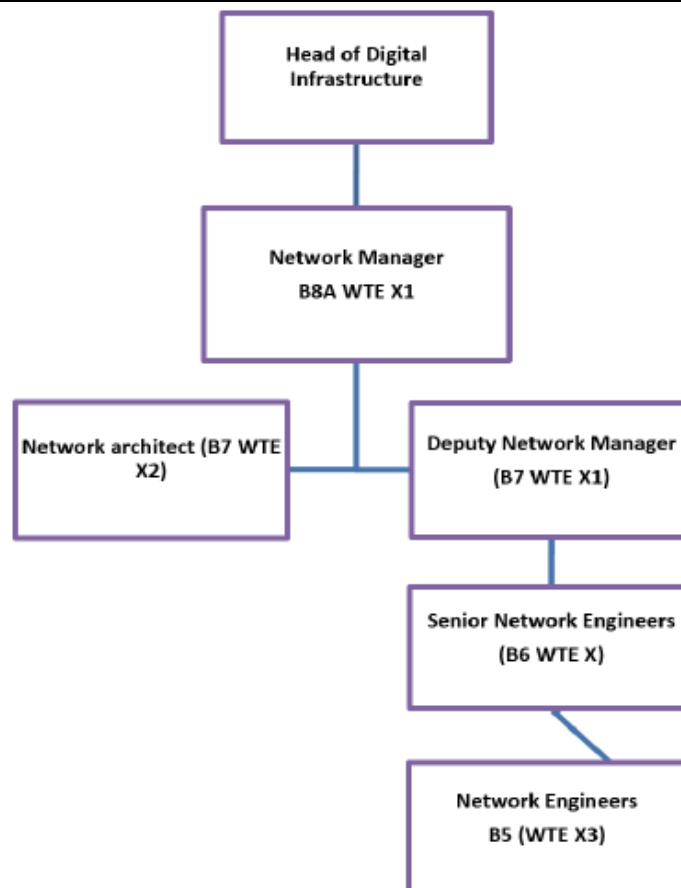
No. of Staff reporting to this role: 1

The post holder is required to deal effectively with staff of all levels throughout the Trust as and when they encounter on a day-to-day basis. In addition the post holder will deal with the wider healthcare community, external organisations and the public. This will include verbal, written and electronic media.

Of particular importance are working relationships with:

Internal to the Trust	External to the Trust
• Trust Service Managers • Information Asset Owners • Digital Services Division • Trust User Base	• External Clients and Partners • 3rd Party Service and Solution Providers

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



FREEDOM TO ACT

- Works to achieve agreed objectives and has freedom to do this in own way, working within broad professional policies; advises without reference to manager
- Acts as an escalation point for complex issues requiring expert judgement.
- Be responsible for own area of work, acting as technical specialist lead
- Responsible for the voice and data networks for the RDUH, where the Network team has responsibility for providing these services

- Provides technical leadership by making informed, timely decisions that support service continuity and operational performance.

COMMUNICATION/RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

- Communicating with both internal and external personnel up to board/executive level.
- Uses influence and persuasion skills to secure agreement/co-operation
- Provide regular structured reporting to the Network Manager and key stakeholders on the status of programmes including risks, changes and progress.
- Communicate highly complex solution designs referencing topologies and technical details to various stakeholders, tailoring the approach to suit the audience.
- Produces high-quality technical documentation, network diagrams, risk assessments and change communications that meet NHS governance and audit requirements.
- Work effectively with RDUH programme stakeholders to ensure programme delivery and benefits realisation
- Builds strong working relationships with clinical directorates, Estates, Digital, suppliers and programme teams to support service delivery, manage expectations and maintain trust.
- Provides guidance, mentoring and technical briefings to colleagues, supporting capability development across the wider Digital Infrastructure team
- Ensure all solutions and designs are aligned to support models within the Network BAU Team future strategies.
- Train, Document and support the Trust networks team and other stakeholders with new systems and processes relevant to project and systems development. The subject matter varies greatly, sometimes it will be with systems familiar to the relevant teams that may have updates with minor changes or new sites being commissioned with the same current in use systems, at other time it may be a completely new system that could be complex or relevantly straightforward.

ANALYTICAL/JUDGEMENTAL SKILLS

- Analyse complex scenarios such as system failures, fault-finding, or non-optimal performance where solutions require detailed analysis and evaluation of multiple options/solutions.
- Use judgement to identify and recommend preferred options/solutions taking into account clinical and operational considerations
- Ensures robust management of errors.
- Responsible for interpreting complex datasets, identifying trends, and translating findings into actionable insights while managing frequent interruptions and competing priorities.
- Assess multiple technical options, considering cost, resilience, security, interoperability and NHS governance requirements to recommend optimal solutions.
- Evaluates technical risks, service impacts and patient-safety implications, making sound, evidence-based decisions during incidents, planned changes and infrastructure upgrades.
- Analyses network telemetry, logs, packet captures and performance metrics to identify root causes, emerging trends and potential vulnerabilities.

PLANNING/ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS

- Plans and leads complex technical implementations that have significant clinical and operational impact, ensuring safe, efficient, and high-quality delivery across multiple services.
- Oversees end-to-end project activity from requirements gathering and risk assessment to deployment, validation, and post-implementation review while coordinating with clinical, operational, and digital stakeholders.
- Applies advanced technical expertise and structured project-management approaches to ensure that changes are robust, compliant, and aligned with organisational priorities. This work ranges from system upgrades and integrations to the introduction of new digital capabilities that directly support patient care and operational performance.
- Manage complex workstreams involving multiple parties and/or technical disciplines
- Maintain agility of approach in response to changing priorities and developing situations
- Keep relevant documentation up to date and published in the correct format.

- Identify areas of operational risk in the day-to-day running of the Network infrastructure function reporting of risks to the Network Manager/Team leads.
- Compile data to evidence progress against project timelines.
- Working autonomously to plan and organise workload to meet multiple and often conflicting deadlines
- Responsible for leading and developing work packages/plans that deliver RDUH programmes

PATIENT/CLIENT CARE

- Patient contact is incidental.

POLICY/SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

- Ensure departmental and Trust policies are adhered to and that technical design choices are aligned with such policies
- Develop and propose changes to policies which may have an organisation-wide impact and are of a critical security nature e.g. access control, firewall policies for the overall Trust Network
- Develop and implement service standards such as Standard Operating Procedure
- Work with RDUH programme management to ensure programme governance is provided with accurate and timely performance monitoring data

FINANCIAL/PHYSICAL RESOURCES

- Ensure the safe and competent use/management of high value and service-critical equipment such as firewalls, core networking equipment, wireless controllers etc across the Trust systems.
- Support procurement activities relating to the network delivery for RDUH.
- Monitor and review budget for networking components within RDUH programmes to ensure that Programmes are delivered within budget.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Maintain highly specialised knowledge of voice & data networking theory and concepts, and maintain awareness of technological trends and emerging concepts/capabilities
- Develop a personal development plan annually as part of the personal development review process and continuation of such through appropriate formal training as and when necessary.
- Use available resources (Intranet, internet, reading materials, conferences) to keep abreast of technical developments and look for opportunities to use these developments.
- Support management in maintaining a resilient and appropriately skilled Network Services function by identifying skills gaps, developing and maintaining technical documentation, providing coaching and knowledge transfer within own specialist disciplines, contributing to cross-training activities across supported network platforms and emerging technologies, and reporting current capability levels and future development requirements
- Escalate any workforce planning issues, concerns, or problems which negatively impact the teams ability to deliver service to the timelines required by the programme to the Network Manager.
- Support the network team and wider digital services by providing handover and training.

INFORMATION RESOURCES

- Develop and maintain the Trust's network architecture strategy and roadmap
- Responsible for installation, maintenance and upgrades of complex networking equipment and underlying software
- Quality assure documentation related to the delivery of network infrastructure and programmes are ready for submission to Technical Design Authority for approval.
- Take responsibility for data quality and for ensuring all data, both written and electronic, is recorded accurately and in a timely manner.
- Ensure that all generated documentation is fit for purpose, accepted and retained in line with departmental and Trust standards, including that of others from within your designated team
- Input data into spreadsheets, Word documents or PowerPoint presentations, ensuring accuracy

and adhering to style guides/templates.

- Responsible for design and development of SDWAN Firewalls, Aruba Central OSCX systems, Fortinet VPNs, 802.1X enforcement and all other Network systems and documentation across the RDUH Network infrastructure in its entirety.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

- Regularly carry out equipment testing, upgrade and adaptation
- Stay informed about emerging security risk, network technologies, trends and best practices
- Undertake surveys, audits and research to monitor performance and compliance of technical infrastructure
- Work with providers to research available solutions within technologies

PHYSICAL SKILLS

- Advanced keyboard skills are required, to support the operation and interaction with a number of complex systems at the same time.

PHYSICAL EFFORT

- Long periods of light physical effort carrying network equipment
- Short periods of heavy physical effort carrying network equipment.
- Car driving for deployment of Network equipment between sites and On call duties.

MENTAL EFFORT

- Frequent prolonged concentration when undertaking detailed analytical tasks, system diagnostics, or high-risk technical changes, ensuring accuracy, safety, and adherence to governance standards.

EMOTIONAL EFFORT

- Frequently respond to concerns and questions from a wide range of people, who may be anxious or distressed relating to IT changes.
- Requirement to deal with pressurised situations arising from the failure of critical systems which impact on the delivery of healthcare services to individual patients.

WORKING CONDITIONS

- Occasional exposure to noisy/dirty/dusty environments
- Continuous use of computer to perform required duties

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Take part in regular performance appraisal.

Undertake any training required in order to maintain competency including mandatory training, e.g. Manual Handling

Contribute to and work within a safe working environment

You are expected to comply with Trust Infection Control Policies and conduct him/herself at all times in such a manner as to minimise the risk of healthcare associated infection

As an employee of the Trust, it is a contractual duty that you abide by any relevant code of professional conduct and/or practice applicable to you. A breach of this requirement may result in action being taken against you (in accordance with the Trust's disciplinary policy) up to and including dismissal.

You must also take responsibility for your workplace health and wellbeing:

- When required, gain support from Occupational Health, Human Resources or other sources.

- Familiarise yourself with the health and wellbeing support available from policies and/or Occupational Health.
- Follow the Trust's health and wellbeing vision of healthy body, healthy mind, healthy you.
- Undertake a Display Screen Equipment assessment (DSE) if appropriate to role.

GENERAL

This is a description of the job as it is now. We periodically examine employees' job descriptions and update them to ensure that they reflect the job as it is then being performed, or to incorporate any changes being proposed. This procedure is conducted by the manager in consultation with the jobholder. You will, therefore, be expected to participate fully in such discussions. We aim to reach agreement on reasonable changes, but if agreement is not possible, we reserve the right to insist on changes to your job description after consultation with you.

Everyone within the Trust has a responsibility for, and is committed to, safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults, children and young people and for ensuring that they are protected from harm, ensuring that the Trusts Child Protection and Safeguarding Adult policies and procedures are promoted and adhered to by all members of staff.

At the Royal Devon, we are committed to reducing our carbon emissions and minimising the impact of healthcare on the environment, as outlined in our Green Plan available on our website. We actively promote sustainable practices and encourage colleagues to explore and implement greener ways of working within their roles.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Job Title	Network Architect
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Requirements	Essential	Desirable
QUALIFICATION/ SPECIAL TRAINING		
• Educated to degree level or relevant equivalent experience	✓	
• ITIL Foundation certification		✓
• Network Professional qualifications or relevant equivalent experience	✓	
• Network Expert qualification or relevant equivalent experience	✓	
• Aruba Oscx Expert qualification		✓
• CWNA accreditation or ECSE	✓	
KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS		
• Additional specialist knowledge in Aruba Central Architecture and design to post-graduate level or equivalent	✓	
• In depth knowledge of all aspects of voice & data networking	✓	
• In depth knowledge of network security devices such as firewalls and Policy Management Platforms	✓	
• In depth knowledge of TCP/IP networking and associated network addressing issues, including addressing issues specific to the NHS	✓	
• Knowledge and skills associated with legacy network devices and protocols	✓	
• Knowledge of packet switching networks and topologies	✓	
• Network IP Telephony and Voice Routers	✓	
• Load-balancers and Application Delivery Controllers	✓	
• Proven experience of Network Monitoring software	✓	
• In depth knowledge of Service Management and ITIL best practice		✓
EXPERIENCE		
• Experience working with EPIC EPR deployments		✓
• Proven data communications experience	✓	
• Proven experience of data cabling infrastructure delivery including Copper and Fibre technologies	✓	
• Proven experience in IT support in medium to large organisations	✓	
• Experience of working in a multidisciplinary team.	✓	
• Experience of working with leading technology vendors IE: CheckPoint, Fortinet, Palo Alto & Cisco Firewall Technologies	✓	
• Experience of working with Network Policy Management tools including implementation and management	✓	
• Experience of working with Aruba ClearPass		✓
• Experience in supporting business systems to a high standard	✓	
• In-depth experience in Checkpoint and Fortinet Firewall technologies	✓	
• Experience with Aruba OSCX and Central		✓
• Experience with Wireless design and troubleshooting	✓	
• Proven experience in ground up design and delivery of enterprise network solutions	✓	
PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES		
• Ability to deal with end users and stake holders relevant to the role	✓	
• Proven organisational skills and the ability to work under pressure	✓	

• Enthusiasm and commitment to learning new technical skills	✓	
• A logical approach to problem solving	✓	
• Excellent prioritisation of high level workstreams	✓	
• Ability to quickly assess severity of problems and prioritise workload to provide a responsive resolution	✓	
OTHER REQUIREMENTS		
• Demonstrates drive to acquire technological advances and commitment to CPD		✓
• Flexible to the requirements of the role with regards to travelling to other sites and locations with limited notice	✓	
• Ability to work evenings and weekends to meet deadlines and to participate in a 24/7 and/or on call rota	✓	
• Full UK driving license and access to vehicle for business use	✓	
• The post holder must demonstrate a positive commitment to uphold diversity and equality policies approved by the Trust.	✓	

		FREQUENCY			
		(Rare/ Occasional/ Moderate/ Frequent)			
WORKING CONDITIONS/HAZARDS		R	O	M	F
Hazards/ Risks requiring Immunisation Screening					
Laboratory specimens	N				
Contact with patients	N				
Exposure Prone Procedures	N				
Blood/body fluids	N				
Hazard/Risks requiring Respiratory Health Surveillance					
Solvents (e.g. toluene, xylene, white spirit, acetone, formaldehyde and ethyl acetate)	N				
Respiratory sensitisers (e.g isocyanates)	N				
Chlorine based cleaning solutions (e.g. Chlorclean, Actichlor, Tristel)	N				
Animals	N				
Cytotoxic drugs	N				
Risks requiring Other Health Surveillance					
Radiation (>6mSv)	N				
Laser (Class 3R, 3B, 4)	N				
Dusty environment (>4mg/m3)	N				
Noise (over 80dBA)	N				
Hand held vibration tools (=>2.5 m/s2)	N				
Other General Hazards/ Risks					
VDU use (> 1 hour daily)	Y				X
Heavy manual handling (>10kg)	N				
Driving	Y		X		
Food handling	N				
Night working	Y	X			
Electrical work	N				
Physical Effort	Y				X
Mental Effort	Y				X
Emotional Effort	Y		X		
Working in isolation	Y	X			
Challenging behaviour	N				