

Ingenious Champion Profile

Christian Scholz – Dimension Data



Juniper Champion



Introducing Christian Scholz

Christian Scholz is a system engineer at Dimension Data, focusing exclusively on Juniper products (EX Series Ethernet Switches, SRX Series Services Gateways, Junos Space, and WLA/WLC Series devices). He has five years of networking experience, and he has been one of the core SEs for Juniper at Dimension Data since 2015. Christian has attained numerous Juniper certifications, including JNCIP-SEC + ENT, JNCDS-SEC + DC, JNCSP-SEC + ENT, and JNCIS-WLAN. “Juniper is not just a job, it’s my hobby,” Christian says. “Networking is a part of me.”

Career Path

Christian started to work in the IT industry in 2008. He was able to finish his apprenticeship after only 2 years and in 2015, took his career to the next level by joining Dimension Data, an Elite Juniper Partner. While on the job for various big companies in retail and construction, he got more and more excited about the potential that Juniper products offer to customers. By working to improve his expertise every day, he was able to earn his professional certifications while always working toward his career goal of being at the JNCIE level. He is very proud of the fact that his JNCIE-SEC is right around the corner (currently planned for Q1/Q2 in 2017).

Engaging with Juniper

As it happened, the first company Christian worked for started to move from Cisco to Juniper at the very time he joined them. This put him in the lucky position of receiving Juniper training as an apprentice, furthering his passion for networking and Juniper. He got interested mainly in the SRX Series and used that system to create a small lab in his home. Later, when he started working with big customers at Dimension Data, he found himself configuring EX9214 switches and SRX1500 gateways, as well as imaging hundreds of switches with Junos Space. At Dimension Data, Christian got the opportunity to work purely with the Junos® Platform and the other vendors associated with Juniper designs. “I try to improve myself every day,” he says. “Thanks to some very interesting big Juniper-related projects and training, I have gained a lot of experience and was also given the opportunity to get my first JNCIE. I admit that I’m the guy in the company who tries to solve every problem—and I mean every problem—with a Juniper approach.”

Proud to be an Ingenious Champion

Christian became involved with the Champion Program when he joined Dimension Data. Quickly realizing the opportunities this program would give him and his company, he started to study night after night to achieve Ingenious Champion status. He worked toward his SEC and ENT level certifications, and his Design Specialist certification for SEC and DC followed. He became a big fan of the program and got in touch with many other Champions via Twitter and the SE Summits. “The best part, I think, is the invitation to attend SE Summits—a place where you meet up with so many interesting people from so



many cultures—all united under the Juniper banner,” Christian says. “I was overwhelmed when I got to the SE Summit this year. It was my first one, and I met so many awesome people and got such valuable information which will help me in my everyday job.”

On a Personal Note

Since Juniper is also his hobby (he currently has about 16 devices running at home), many of his friends joke that he must have a gold-contract with the electricity department. Others go partying while Christian installs iBGP between the living room and the kitchen—because he really enjoys it. From time to time he likes to go swimming and cycling to get away from the “cloud” and get some exercise. In 2015, he started to discover the possibilities of Arduino and Home-Automation, programing his first rudimentary AI to switch the lights on and off via voice. There is only one thing in the world more important to him than working with technology, and that is his wife Svenja. “She always makes sure that I still remember the real world,” Christian says. “As much as I love networking, being around my wife, family, friends, and colleagues is still the best.”

Quotes and Testimonials

Karlheinz Fischbach, Manager Professional Services by Dimension Data has this to say about Christian:

Christian is now 16 months with us. During this short time, he has increased his technical Juniper know-how (networking and security) exponentially. It has been unbelievable for me. He has built a very good relationship with our Juniper clients and reached very fast a trusted advisory status, which has been very helpful to win many additional deals. In critical situations, he has always found a quick solution and has often exceeded the customer’s expectations. Christian has now started the next step in his professional career as a JNCIE-SEC (@Christian: Good luck from the whole Dimension Data Team).

About Juniper Networks

Juniper Networks is in the business of network innovation. From devices to data centers, from consumers to cloud providers, Juniper Networks delivers the software, silicon and systems that transform the experience and economics of networking. The company serves customers and partners worldwide. Additional information can be found at www.juniper.net.

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