# Ginji Watari

https://linkedin.com/in/ginjiwatari/ | ginjiwatari.com

+1 (408) 439-3307 | ginji@spottyslab.com

---

**Work Experience:**

*Systems Administrator – Excite Credit Union (San Jose, CA)*                    Apr. 2025-Present

- Installed, configured, and managed MS Server 2022/2025 and Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers.
- Handled the migration of Microsoft servers from 2012R2/2016 to 2022/2025.
- Administered and maintained VMWare ESXi virtualization environment, ensuring high availability and optimal performance of virtual servers.
- Successfully planned and implemented vSphere ESXi 8 upgrades.
- Managed M365 hybrid infrastructure, integrating on-premises Active Directory systems with Microsoft Entra ID cloud services.
- Administered and troubleshot email systems to ensure constant uptime and maintain strong security postures.
- Deployed and managed Barracuda M365 backup solution to ensure secure retention of tenant data.
- Managed external and internal DNS records to ensure accurate domain name resolution.
- Planned and implemented the rollout of Action1 automated patching software.
- Responsible for monthly operating system and application security patching for endpoints and servers.
- Provided basic networking configuration and troubleshooting alongside networking team.
- Configured, managed, and tested server and SQL database backups using Rubrik Security Cloud and Cloud Data Management.
- Managed Duo 2FA/Federation services, enhancing authentication security.
- Resolved hardware issues in servers—Cisco UCS blades and Rubrik physical appliances.
- Provided Tier 3 technical support to team members as needed.
- Provided mentorship to help desk employees.

*IT Support Specialist – Excite Credit Union (San Jose, CA)*                    Jan. 2024-Apr. 2025

- Provided Tier 1 and 2 support to team members to resolve endpoint issues.
- Used Active Directory to provision users and unlock accounts as needed.
- Utilized FreshService ticketing system to triage and organize incoming tickets.
- Escalated outstanding issues to proper teams to ensure outstanding issues are resolved.
- Installed and configured user endpoints with Windows 10/11 and required banking software.
- Led the user endpoint operating system migration from Windows 10 to 11
- Advised team members on Windows 11 hardware compatibility, ensuring compliance with Microsoft's official support guidelines.
- Configured telephony systems (physical and virtual) using Cisco Unified Communications Manager.
- Diagnosed and repaired hardware issues on user endpoint devices.

*Tutor – Washington State Univ. – Carson College of Business*                    Aug. 2023-Dec.2023

- Aided students needing extra help with their Management Information Systems and other business-related courses.

---

**Skills/Competencies:**

Windows Server 2012R2/2016/2019/2022/2025, Windows 7/10/11, Linux (Debian and Fedora), macOS

VMWare vSphere ESXi/vCenter, Proxmox VE, Rubrik, Pure Storage, NetApp, Barracuda M365 Backup

Active Directory, Group Policy Management, Microsoft 365, Azure/Entra ID, Remote Desktop Services

VLANs, ACLs, IP Routing Protocols, DNS TCP/IP, Cisco iOS, UnifiOS, Cisco UCM

Sophos Email Security/MDM, Jamf Pro, Ivanti LANDesk, Action1 RMM

**Certifications**

Cisco Certified Network Associate                                    Jul. 2024-Jul. 2027

CompTIA A+                                                          Sept. 2023-Sept. 2026

CompTIA Network+                                                   Sept. 2023-Sept. 2026

---

**Education**

Washington State University (Pullman, WA)                           Dec. 2023

Management Information Systems

---

**Projects**

*VMware ESXi Upgrade:*

- Successfully planned and executed vSphere ESXi and vCenter upgrades from version 7.0u3 to 8.0u3.
- Assisted networking team in upgrading Cisco Business Edition hosts from version 6.7 to 8.0u1.
- Resolved blockers preventing upgrades from occurring, including:
    o Broken symbolic links to certain host's bootbank directories located on remote FCoE LUNs.
    o Outstanding hardware issues.
    o PureStorage and NetApp firmware updates.
    o Cisco IMC and driver firmware updates.
- Backed up configurations and staged rollback plans in case of issues.

*Windows 11 Migration:*

- Led the endpoint migration from Windows 10 LTSC v1809 to Windows 11 24H2.
- Executed and completed the Windows 11 migration fully in-house, without any consultant assistance.
- Conducted software testing on pilot machines, resolving any issues that arose due to upgrades.
- Worked with software vendors to resolve any upgrade related issues.
- Worked with organization business units to coordinate optimal times for end-user swaps, minimizing downtime.
- Advised management and other IT employees on which computers and laptops are eligible for re-use, based on Microsoft's hardware requirements.

*Virtualized Homelab Environment:*

- Planned, configured, and managed a high-availability (HA) Proxmox cluster consisting of 3 hosts.
- Configured and deployed a SAN device with TrueNAS SCALE; created a RAIDZ1 array and provisioned it as NFS storage for Proxmox hosts.
- Enhanced network security by applying VLAN segmentation, ACLs, and internal firewall rules based on best practices.
- Configured Guacamole to allow RDP access to a jumpbox for homelab access via a WAN connection.
- Managed an Active Directory environment on top of Proxmox, including user accounts, group policies, and domain services.
- Configured, deployed, and managed a sandbox Windows domain to conduct testing, before making recommendations and changes to production/work systems.
- Separate standalone host used for separate services, including a dedicated Minecraft server, personal website, and self-hosted DNS server.

*Personal Website (Currently in Development):*

- Currently self-hosting a personal website (ginjiwatari.com) using Apache on a Red Hat Enterprise Linux 10 virtual machine.
- Securely exposed HTTPS traffic to the public via Cloudflare Tunnel, removing the need of port-forwarding and reverse proxies from home network.
- Configured automatic certificate renewal, using the ACME protocol and Let's Encrypt certificates to ensure true end-to-end encryption.