# YURI KOLESNIKOV

Director of IT | Head of IT| Cloud, SaaS & Security Operations Leader

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

IT leader with 20+ years of progressive experience — from startup systems administrator to Director and Head of IT — across venture-backed startups, large enterprises, service providers, and venture capital firms. Successfully evolved from traditional infrastructure into modern, cloud-first IT: SaaS portfolio governance, cloud identity and access management (Okta SSO/SCIM), zero-trust security tooling, and enterprise AI adoption. Build and lead high-performing distributed teams across continents, and partner with security and executive leadership to achieve SOC 2 Type II, ISO 27001, PCI DSS, GDPR, and TPN Gold certifications.

**Signature results:**

- **Scale:** grew IT from 1 to 11 FTEs while company headcount expanded from ~100 to 1,000+ across global factories, flight test sites, and offices (Skydio).
- **Cloud transformation:** migrated 15 PB of customer data to cloud object storage and consolidated 5 data centers into hybrid cloud — $1M OPEX savings and 40% CAPEX reduction (Zenfolio).
- **SaaS & identity:** consolidated 50+ applications behind Okta SSO with automated provisioning — onboarding time down 40%, SaaS costs down 20%.
- **AI governance:** co-selected enterprise AI tools and instituted ongoing usage/spend monitoring to control costs and prevent budget waste.
- **Security & compliance:** led IT controls for SOC 2 Type II, ISO 27001, PCI DSS, GDPR, and TPN Gold programs in safety- and mission-critical environments.
- **Cost discipline:** delivered 30–40% infrastructure and SaaS cost reductions through vendor negotiation, license optimization, and data-center consolidation.
- **Reliability:** raised availability from 98.5% to 99.9% across global sites with 95% ticket SLA attainment.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

IT Strategy & Leadership • Cloud & Digital Transformation • SaaS Governance & License Management • Identity & Access Management (SSO, SCIM, MFA, Zero Trust) • Cybersecurity & Compliance (SOC 2, ISO 27001, PCI DSS, GDPR, TPN) • AI Tool Evaluation, Adoption & Spend Governance • Remote & Distributed Team Leadership • ITSM / ITIL Service Management • Endpoint & Device Management (MDM/UEM) • Vendor & Contract Negotiation • Budgeting & CapEx/OpEx Management • Network Architecture & Build-Out • Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity • M&A / Post-Acquisition Integration

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Identity & Security:** Okta (SSO/SCIM), Microsoft Entra ID (Azure AD), Google Identity, EDR/MDR, SIEM, DMARC/email security, vulnerability management, secrets management, Vanta and GRC tooling

**Cloud & SaaS:** AWS, Azure, GCP, Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, Slack, Zoom, SaaS spend and license management

**Endpoint & Device Management:** JumpCloud, Jamf, NinjaOne, VMware Workspace ONE (UEM), Apple Business Manager, macOS / Windows / Linux fleets

**AI & Automation:** Enterprise AI assistant rollout and governance (Anthropic Claude, OpenAI ChatGPT), AI usage policy, scripting (Bash, Python), Terraform, Ansible, Jenkins

**Networking:** Cisco Meraki, Juniper, Ubiquiti (UniFi), Arista, Aruba, SD-WAN, Starlink, 5G

**Infrastructure & Monitoring:** VMware, Hyper-V, Kubernetes, Datadog, Zabbix, SolarWinds, PRTG, Auvik, IDS/IPS

**Storage:** NetApp, Synology, TrueNAS, Cleversafe / IBM Cloud Object Storage, AWS S3

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Director of IT | KERV Interactive** — Austin, TX

**Aug 2025 – Present**

Brought structure, security, and scalability to a rapidly growing interactive video technology company supporting 110+ users in a cloud-first, fully SaaS environment.

- Lead global IT operations and end-user support across collaboration platforms, identity, endpoint management, and the SaaS application portfolio.
- Deployed Okta SSO to unify identity management across core SaaS tools, closing security gaps and simplifying user access.
- Achieved TPN Gold security certification and prepared the organization for a SOC 2 Type II audit — control design, policy authoring, evidence collection, and coordination with external assessors.
- Championed enterprise AI adoption: consolidated AI tool licensing and billing under IT governance and established usage guidelines to scale AI productivity tools safely across teams.
- Launched an ongoing security awareness training program, reducing phishing susceptibility by 40%; implemented DMARC monitoring and anti-phishing controls, improving email deliverability and resilience against targeted attacks.
- Reduced SaaS spend by 10% through license optimization, duplicate tool elimination, and disciplined vendor and account management.
- Partnered with Sales and Customer Success on enterprise security questionnaires and customer-facing security posture presentations; established IT service processes and metrics to improve responsiveness and transparency.

**Independent Technology Consultant** — Austin, TX
**Apr 2025 – Present**

- Deliver fractional Director of Technology services to biotechnology and hardware engineering clients: infrastructure assessments, network design and security hardening, IT strategy, and training of client IT teams.

**Director of Information Technology | Skydio** — San Mateo, CA
**Aug 2020 – Apr 2025**

Led IT through hypergrowth at the largest U.S. drone manufacturer, scaling the team from 1 to 11 FTEs as headcount grew from ~100 to 1,000+ across factories, flight test sites, and offices worldwide.

- Rolled out Okta SSO/SCIM and Workspace ONE UEM across the fleet, cutting onboarding time 40% and closing MFA coverage gaps.
- Deployed Juniper, Cisco Meraki, and UniFi networks with secure Wi-Fi and SD-WAN at new sites within aggressive go-live windows; stood up secure server rooms.
- Built Skydio's first enterprise IT helpdesk on Freshservice (ITSM) with ITIL-aligned incident, change, and asset management — 20% reduction in mean time to resolution within 90 days.
- Introduced 5G and Starlink communications kits for field operations, minimizing connectivity failures during flight tests.
- Partnered with the CISO to pass SOC 2 and ISO 27001 audits — owned IT and infrastructure controls, maintained evidence repositories, and authored incident-response playbooks.

**Director of IT Operations | Zenfolio** — Menlo Park, CA
**May 2016 – Jul 2020**

- Consolidated 5 data centers into a hybrid cloud, driving a 40% CAPEX reduction and 30% faster deployments.
- Migrated 15 PB of customer media to cloud object storage, saving $1M in annual OPEX.
- Led a distributed global team (US, Vietnam, Argentina) to 99.9% uptime and 95% ticket SLA attainment.
- Co-owned enterprise PCI DSS and GDPR compliance, partnering with Security, Legal, and Engineering to implement tokenization, encryption, and updated privacy policies across 3 continents.

**Senior IT Manager | OPSWAT** — San Francisco, CA
**Apr 2015 – Apr 2016**

- Engineered a hybrid AWS/on-premises stack; trimmed cloud spend 30% with reserved instances and tagging strategy.
- Implemented cloud PBX and a 10 GbE core network, reducing latency to build servers by 25%.

**Director of IT | Coraid** — Redwood City, CA
**Dec 2011 – Mar 2015**

- Unified on-site and outsourced 24×7 support; rolled out Okta SSO as an early enterprise adopter.
- Cut infrastructure costs 40% through data-center consolidation and contract renegotiation.

**IT Manager | Opus Capital Ventures** — Menlo Park, CA

**Oct 2007 – Dec 2011**

- Built and operated a high-security IT environment for venture capital partners — zero critical incidents over 4 years.

**Earlier Career — Senior IT Manager / Systems Administrator** **1996 – 2007**

- **NetApp (via Decru acquisition), MongoNet, GNAC, EFI, US Robotics** — delivered rapid startup infrastructure builds, M&A integrations, and lab environments supporting encryption R&D.

## EDUCATION

**M.S., Electronic Engineering** — TSI Universitāte, Riga, Latvia

## CERTIFICATIONS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ITIL v3 Foundation • SSE Expert, Cato Networks (2024) • Integrating Generative AI into Business Strategy (2024) • Building a HIPAA Compliance Program (2024) • CISA Cert Prep: IT Life-Cycle (2023) • CISSP (in progress)

**Additional: TechExec Network, Evanta CIO Community • Fluent in English and Russian**