

# Mohamad (Mo) Awada

Head of IT & Cybersecurity



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 [LinkedIn](#)

 The Netherlands

Nationality: Dutch / Lebanese

## Professional Summary

IT leader with 20+ years of experience stabilizing, scaling, and securing complex IT environments across Europe, Africa, and the Middle East.

Proven track record in building IT functions from the ground up, leading multi-region operations, and transforming fragmented environments into structured, secure, and scalable platforms supporting up to 8,000+ users.

Known for bringing clarity to complexity, aligning IT with business priorities, and delivering resilient, high-availability environments in regulated and fast-growing organizations.

## Skills & Competencies

### IT Leadership & Transformation

- IT Governance & Compliance
- Digital Transformation & Cloud Strategy
- IT Operations & Infrastructure Management
- Cybersecurity & Risk Management
- Enterprise Architecture & Business Alignment
- Budget Ownership (€2M+)
- Cross-functional Team Leadership (8 FTE / 15 Locations)

### Technical Expertise

- Cloud Computing (Azure, Linode, Google Cloud),
- Cybersecurity Frameworks (ISO27001, NIST, SOC2, GDPR, NIS2)
- Data Center Infrastructure Management
- ERP & Business Applications (Microsoft D365)
- SaaS, AI, IoT, and Emerging Technologies

## Education

- **Digital Transformation** – MIT Professional Education (2023)
- **BS Information Technology & Computing** – Open University UK (2009)

## Professional Experience

### Head of IT

#### ***Raxio Group | Netherlands & Africa | Jul 2023 – Oct 2025***

- Built and led IT and cybersecurity functions across 7 greenfield data center locations in Africa
- Defined and executed cybersecurity strategy aligned with ISO 27001, NIST, and SOC2 frameworks
- Established scalable IT operations to support high-availability, mission-critical infrastructure
- Implemented Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM) systems for operational control and visibility
- Standardized SaaS and ERP environments to improve business efficiency and governance
- Acted as strategic advisor to leadership on risk, resilience, and IT scalability

### Global IT Manager

#### ***Onward Medical | Netherlands & Switzerland | Aug 2021 – Jun 2023***

- Built the IT function from scratch, defining IT strategy, governance, and security frameworks
- Led IT and cybersecurity maturity assessment to support IPO readiness
- Led cloud transformation, transitioning to a modern, scalable cloud-first environment
- Implemented security and compliance frameworks aligned with GDPR and HIPAA
- Designed and delivered a modern digital workplace supporting global teams

### Regional IT Ops Manager – Azure Cloud & Security

#### ***Sabco Europe | Netherlands | Jun 2020 – Jul 2021***

- Led a large-scale IT carve-out, migrating 3,000+ users to a standalone Azure/M365 environment
- Delivered end-to-end migration (identity, data, applications) with minimal business disruption
- Ensured secure, compliant, and scalable cloud operations across regions
- Established governance, SLAs, and operational controls for post-migration stability
- Coordinated global stakeholders and vendors in a high-complexity environment

### Global IT Manager

#### ***Schunk Group | Netherlands & Germany | Mar 2018 – Jun 2020***

- Led IT strategy and operations across 12 global locations (EU, US, Asia)
- Executed cloud migration initiatives, improving scalability and cost efficiency
- Managed global infrastructure and cybersecurity operations
- Led IT during office and manufacturing relocations
- Built and managed a team of IT engineers and project managers

## **Project Manager – Cloud & Security**

***Heineken International | Netherlands | Jan 2016 – May 2017***

- Led cloud initiatives, including migration of 150+ websites to Microsoft Azure
- Developed web security standards and risk control frameworks
- Managed Azure environments and global cost allocation models
- Coordinated security testing, audits, and compliance activities

## **ICT Manager & Regional IT Infrastructure Consultant**

***Heineken / Brasserie Almaza | Lebanon | 2012 – 2016***

- Led IT infrastructure and security across regional operations
- Delivered ERP transformation (Oracle → Microsoft Dynamics)
- Conducted regional security audits across AD, proxy, and patching systems
- Managed distributed IT teams across multiple countries

## **Earlier Career - IT Infrastructure & Security (2005 – 2011)**

- Held multiple roles across Heineken, Capital Plus, and Ministry of Defense
- Specialized in infrastructure, network security, and business continuity
- Built strong technical foundation leading into IT leadership roles

## **Certifications & Training**

- **Certified Operational Technology Security Expert**
- **Certified Google Cloud Core Infrastructure**
- **Certified Hacking Forensics Investigator (CHFI)**
- **Certified Ethical Hacker (CEH)**
- **Lean IT, PMP, ITIL v3, Situational Leadership II**
- **Heineken Action Learning Program**
- **Real People Management**
- **Certified Health & Fitness Advisor**
- **Certified Fitness Personal Trainer**

## **References**

**Available upon request.**