



NIRA
NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION &
REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
HAY' ADDA A QOONSIGA IYO DIIWAANGELINTA QARANKA

Job Description	
Organization:	National Identification and Registration Authority
Position Title:	Network Architect
Reports to:	Director General
Duty Station:	National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA), Mogadishu
Name of the Project	Somalia Capacity Advancement, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship, through Digital Uplift Project (SCALED-UP)
Project ID	P168115
Duration	12 months renewable upon performance

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR NETWORK ARCHITECT

Background:

The National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) is a Government Agency in Somalia, first established in 2020, with the aim of creating and maintaining the national identification system. NIRA is, inter alia, responsible for registering citizens and residents and for providing them with secure and verifiable credentials, including a unique identification number and a national identity card. It also serves as a trusted provider of identity verification and authentication services, promoting the use of the foundational identification system. With the establishment of NIRA Somalia, the government is committed to providing a reliable and efficient identification system that will enable individuals to access services and participate in the development of the country.

The Federal Government of Somalia is implementing the World Bank-financed Somalia Capacity Advancement, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship, through Digital Uplift Project (SCALED-UP) and intends to use part of the proceeds to hire a **Network Architect** (Individual Consultant) for the National Identification and Registration Authority.

Objective:

The Network Architect will serve a critical role in supporting the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) of Somalia by designing and implementing a robust network

infrastructure that aligns with NIRA's objectives, missions, and goals. The primary objectives of this position are to ensure reliable connectivity, secure data transmission, and efficient network performance, while also considering the emerging issues pertinent to network architecture and technology trends. NIRA is actively recruiting Network Architect based in Mogadishu, Somalia.

Scope of Work:

Under the overall guidance from NIRA's Director General, the responsibilities of the Network Architect position will include but not limited to the following:

1. Responsibilities:

The Network Architect will undertake the following key responsibilities:

- Conduct a detailed assessment of NIRA's existing network infrastructure, evaluating its strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, with a specific focus on aligning it with the requirements of the National Identification and Registration system.
- Design, develop, maintain and implement a scalable and secure network architecture plan that supports the National ID system and NIRA's current and future needs, ensuring network topology, hardware, software, and communication protocols, compatibility, resilience, redundancy, and disaster recovery capabilities.
- Collaborate closely with cross-functional teams, including Infrastructure and Network Services Department, and operational personnel, to gather network requirements and ensure seamless integration with existing systems and applications.
- Implement and maintain robust network security measures, including firewalls, intrusion detection systems, encryption protocols, and secure remote access mechanisms, to safeguard NIRA's sensitive data and ensure compliance with relevant regulatory frameworks.
- Configure, optimize, and monitor network devices such as routers, switches, load balancers, and wireless access points to achieve optimal network performance, resilience, and availability.
- Plan and oversee network upgrades, expansions, and migrations, collaborating with relevant stakeholders to minimize operational disruptions and ensure successful implementation.
- Monitor network performance, analyze traffic patterns, proactively identify and resolve network issues, and implement capacity planning strategies to optimize network efficiency.
- Develop comprehensive network documentation, including network diagrams, configurations, standard operating procedures, and disaster recovery plans, to facilitate effective network management, troubleshooting, and future enhancements.
- Provide training and capacity building to NIRA staff on best practices and standards related to network architecture, security, and data protection.
- Stay abreast of emerging trends, technologies, and best practices in network architecture, security, and infrastructure, and evaluate their potential applicability to NIRA's network environment.

- Prepare reports, presentations, and other documents as required by the management of NIRA.

2. Qualifications and Experience

The candidates should have the following desired qualifications:

- Bachelor's or master's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or a related field. Relevant certifications such as CCNA, CCNP, or CCIE are highly desirable.
- At least 7 years of experience in network architecture, design, implementation, and management or similar role, with a strong track record of designing and implementing network infrastructures.
- In-depth knowledge of network protocols, technologies, and architectures, including LAN, WAN, VPN, MPLS, BGP, OSPF, VLAN, and wireless networks.
- Extensive experience in network security technologies, such as firewalls, intrusion detection/prevention systems, VPNs, and secure remote access protocols.
- Proficiency in network monitoring and analysis tools to identify and resolve network issues promptly.
- Strong understanding of network performance optimization techniques and capacity planning principles.
- Excellent problem-solving skills and the ability to work effectively in a collaborative, cross-functional environment.
- Strong communication and presentation skills, with the ability to convey complex technical concepts to non-technical stakeholders.
- Fluency in English and Somali languages (both written and spoken).

Deliverables:

- A detailed report assessing NIRA's existing network infrastructure, highlighting strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement, with specific recommendations for alignment with the requirements of the National ID system.
- A detailed plan outlining the design, development, and implementation of a scalable and secure network architecture that supports the National ID system and NIRA's current and future needs. The plan should include network topology, hardware and software specifications, communication protocols, resilience measures, redundancy strategies, and disaster recovery capabilities.
- Documentation outlining the seamless integration of the network architecture plan with existing systems and applications, ensuring compatibility and smooth operation.
- A comprehensive report detailing the implementation and maintenance of robust network security measures, including firewalls, intrusion detection systems, encryption protocols, and secure remote access mechanisms, to safeguard NIRA's sensitive data and ensure compliance with relevant regulatory frameworks.
- Configuration files and settings for network devices such as routers, switches, load balancers, and wireless access points, optimized to achieve optimal network performance, resilience, and availability.

- A detailed plan for network upgrades, expansions, and migrations, including stakeholder collaboration, minimizing operational disruptions, ensuring successful implementation, and addressing any potential risks or challenges.
- Regular reports on network performance, including analysis of traffic patterns, identification and resolution of network issues, and implementation of capacity planning strategies for optimizing network efficiency.
- A comprehensive documentation package including network diagrams, configuration files, standard operating procedures, disaster recovery plans, and best practices, facilitating effective network management, troubleshooting, and future enhancements.
- Training materials and sessions delivered to NIRA staff, covering best practices and standards related to network architecture, security, and data protection.
- Periodic reports highlighting emerging trends, technologies, and best practices in network architecture, security, and infrastructure, along with evaluation of their potential applicability to NIRA's network environment.
- Preparation of reports, presentations, and other relevant documents as required by the management of NIRA, providing updates on the network architecture, security, and implementation progress.