

APRICOT 2024 Event Report

What did you learn from your workshop course - how will what you learnt help you in your day to day job?

In the Advance BGP workshop at APRICOT 2024, I gained a deep understanding of Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) and its advanced functionalities. As a network and system engineer at Workalaya R and D Pvt Ltd, where we provide technical support to NSPs and ISPs in Nepal, this knowledge is invaluable for my day-to-day tasks. BGP is a critical routing protocol used to exchange routing information between different networks on the internet. Learning advanced BGP techniques equips me with the skills to efficiently manage routing protocols and traffic engineering, which are essential for optimizing network performance and ensuring seamless connectivity for our clients.

With the comprehensive understanding of BGP gained from the workshop, I am better equipped to tackle various challenges in network setup, design, deployment, and troubleshooting. This knowledge enables me to design robust and scalable network architectures, implement effective traffic engineering policies, and diagnose and resolve complex network issues promptly. Whether it's optimizing routing paths to improve performance or troubleshooting connectivity issues, the advanced BGP techniques learned in the workshop empower me to deliver top-notch technical support to our clients, ensuring reliable and efficient network operations.

I want to give a big thanks to **Aftab Siddiqui** and **Phil Mawson** for spending their time teaching us about Advanced BGP. They were really friendly and helpful during the workshop. Their knowledge and advice helped us learn a lot about BGP, which is super important for our work. I'm really grateful for their help in making us better at what we do.

What did you gain from the conference week, and how did you fill in your days?

During the conference week, I gained valuable insights and skills across various topics. At the APRICOT 2024 Newcomers Social, I learned how to make the most of the conference, networked with fellow attendees, met organizers, and got an overview of the program. In the Routing Security sessions, I delved into RPKI, shared insights with the community, and gained hands-on experience with Relying Party Software. Attending the MANRS Community Meet-up allowed me to connect with like-minded individuals passionate about routing security.

I participated in a segment routing tutorial, learning about its terminology, concepts, and common use cases. NOG Reports provided valuable updates from participating countries, while the session on Git for network engineers equipped me with version control knowledge.

Throughout, I enjoyed socializing and meeting industry professionals, further enriching my conference experience.

Overall, the week was filled with learning, networking, and gaining practical skills beneficial to my role in the ICT industry.

How did you find the Monday Core Skills workshop, did you gain anything from it? If so that let us know what you feel you can take back to your day-to-day jobs.

Attending the Monday Core Skills workshop was an enlightening experience. Throughout the sessions, I learned valuable lessons on various topics such as learning presentation skills, overcoming the fear of public speaking, understanding leadership in the community, and practicing scenario-based incident management through role-playing. Each session provided practical insights that I believe will greatly benefit my day-to-day job.

Learning how to effectively present information and tackle public speaking anxiety will enhance my communication skills at work. Understanding leadership in the community taught me the importance of collaboration and community engagement in problem-solving. Moreover, engaging in scenario-based incident management exercises sharpened my decision-making abilities and preparedness for handling unexpected situations. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the facilitators - William Stockbridge, Terry Sweetser, Aftab Siddiqui, and Sarah Lake - for their valuable guidance and support throughout the workshop.

We really want to find out about your overall feeling of the event from a positive viewpoint.

The APRICOT 2024 event was an enlightening journey filled with invaluable learning and networking opportunities. From the Advanced BGP workshop to the conference week activities, each moment was a step forward in enhancing my skills and knowledge in the ICT industry. The workshop equipped me with advanced BGP techniques essential for optimizing network performance, while the conference week offered a diverse range of insights into routing security, segment routing, and community engagement.

Throughout the event, I felt empowered by the expertise shared by industry professionals like Aftab Siddiqui and Phil Mawson. Their guidance, along with that of other facilitators, not only enriched my understanding but also instilled confidence in applying new skills to my day-to-day job at Workalaya R & D Pvt Ltd. Overall, APRICOT 2024 left me inspired and better prepared to tackle the challenges of my role, while also fostering meaningful connections within the ICT community.

*“And Big thanks to **John Rattray**, our Fellowship Coordinator at APRICOT2024, for supporting and guiding us every step of the way, from the beginning of the fellowship announcement to the end of the event.”*

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