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Profile

A reliable, hard-working, and dedicated Linux contractor. I have always looked for projects that bring challenge, as well as those that involve interesting or new technology.

In my spare time I keep myself busy; brushing up on the automation tool of the week, the latest addition to the systemd arsenal, my own websites (primarily using NGINX,) monitoring systems, various VPN solutions, Hashicorp software, OpenBSD; or whatever else has captured my interest.

Though above all else, Linux has always been my mainstay.

- Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE)
- Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCSA)
- Linux Foundation Certified Engineer (LFCE)
- Linux Foundation Certified Sysadmin (LFCS)

Career

Ministry of Justice - DevOps Contractor

JULY 2017 –

Primarily a 'DevOps' role, this specific placement saw a lot of working with Jenkins, Ansible, Azure, Docker, Terraform and an attempt at implementing best practices in a primarily IAAS environment.

Day to day improvements to deployment roles and pipelines was a common element, as well as working with individual teams in the 'Reform' project to improve the experience of the general public using Government services (such as Civil Money Claims and Online-Divorce.)

Examples of work include:

- Writing Zabbix checks and Triggers for niche problems (Docker being a primary culprit)
- Writing roles to allow for automated VM tests utilising libvirt, molecule, QEMU
- Extending a custom Ansible-generated Terraform setup.

William Hill - DevOps Contractor

APRIL 2017 – JULY 2017

Brought in to help out in the Data Stream, I was tasked with working on projects in their backlog, helping ease the burden on the permanent staff.

In this role I investigated and built POC deployments of two technologies, JobScheduler Enterprise Scheduler (SOS-Berlin) and Dreamfactory. Both technologies were implemented using Docker on their in-house Marathon/Mesos deployment. Alongside I deployed a single MSSQL-Docker instance.

Both POCs were tied into the internal AD, and their system-databases utilised a shared MSSQL cluster. Containers were written to be transient, their configuration stored as IAC in Gitlab.

I also wrote local-dev environments so developers could build upon the software on their local machines.

Hewlett Packard Enterprise - Systems Operations Engineer (EMEA)

NOVEMBER 2014 – APRIL 2017

Working as part of a global systems operations team, this role featured hands on work with Red Hat Linux, CheckPoint Firewalls, HP Storage, VMware ESXi and vCentre. there was a focus on moving everything to automation and I gained invaluable knowledge around Chef and Puppet.

I also had opportunity to try out newer technologies, like Docker and Icinga2, along with old classics like SNMP, SSH, Git, Jenkins, and extensive Bash scripts. Internally we used JIRA for project tracking.

I eventually left HPE due to hitting various obstacles in my attempts at championing streamline ageing infrastructure deployment using Packer and Terraform, along with moving to Azure or AWS.

I was here during a period of rapid change, which didn't spell good news for future prospects. The parting was amicable, with a handoff of infrastructure and tooling that I'd been responsible for, to willing colleagues.

Data Messaging & Communications - Systems Engineer

SEPTEMBER 2013 – NOVEMBER 2014

My last role at DMC. In this position my duties were split, half of my time was dedicated to second-line support duties for Asterisk PBX and other systems that DMC had in place.

The other half of my role was one of research and systems improvement. Looking into new technologies and software that DMC might implement into their expanding range of products and services.

Examples of this include the setting up of an OpenVPN solution, and also an L2TP LNS system to tie into a provider's existing network. I have also built a distributed MooseFS service, and have done research into expanding our virtualisation solution for our growing number of virtual machines, built on KVM/QEMU.

Data Messaging & Communications - Technical Support Engineer

SEPTEMBER 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2013

My first role at DMC was a customer facing support role, with small elements of sysadmin and hardware maintenance duties.

Primarily a SIP & VoIP solutions provider, my job was focused around the installation, maintenance and support of systems from the basic five-

person-office to the more complex call-centre implementations of our Asterisk PBX spin, based on Debian.

Along with the VoIP side of the business, there were many opportunities to learn about other areas, such as different distributions, bash scripting, file sharing, HP and Dell server hardware, and even occasional Windows desktop support.

UKFast.net - Data Centre Engineer

FEBRUARY 2010 – JUNE 2012

The job that got me into IT was a hands-on role that meant day-to-day contact with a variety of servers, later in the job a lot of the servers were HP and Dell branded, there was reasonable amount of white-box building too.

The work done in this role ranged from mass-unboxing of new servers, to set up (including BIOS tweaking and installation,) and racking with ongoing maintenance throughout the server's life. This work was also shift based, including weeks of nights.