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Profile

A reliable, hard-working, and dedicated Linux contractor, looking for projects which challenge, as well as those with 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 (currently simple PaaS,) monitoring systems, various VPN solutions, Hashicorp software, OpenBSD; or whatever else has captured my interest.

Though above all else, Linux is my mainstay.

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

Work

Ministry of Justice - DevOps Contractor

JULY 2017 –

Primarily a 'DevOps' role, this contract saw a lot of Jenkins, Ansible, Azure, Docker, Terraform, Packer and an attempt at implementing best practices in a primarily IaaS (then PaaS) environment.

Day to day improvements to deployment roles and pipelines were 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/KVM and Vagrant.

Extending a custom (and awkward) Ansible-generated Terraform setup.

Writing Ansible for specific needs, such as keeping up to date version of Hashicorp binaries (a pain) and correctly identifying unused disks.

Managing a migration from GitHub Enterprise to public GitHub.

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 code in Gitlab.

I also wrote local-dev environments so developers could build atop 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 was at HP/HPE/DXC during a period of rapid change, which didn't feel like a stable environment to be in. I parted on good terms, with a handover of infrastructure and tooling that I'd been responsible for, to willing colleagues.

Data Messaging & Communications - Systems Engineer

SEPTEMBER 2012 – NOVEMBER 2014

As Systems Engineer my duties were split, half my time dedicated to second-line support duties for Asterisk and other systems DMC had in place; with the other half dedicated to research and systems improvement. I frequently looked 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 also built a distributed MooseFS service, and did research into expanding our virtualisation setup for a growing number of machines, built on KVM/QEMU.

As Technical Support Engineer

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.