

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

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Top Skills

Information Technology
Infrastructure

Communication

Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL)

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)

Certifications

CompTIA A+

Datto Technical Specialist II

Learn JavaScript

Keeper Sales Professional

Keeper MSP Pro

Honors-Awards

Volunteer of the Production

Patrick Talaska

Automation & Development

Waukesha, Wisconsin, United States

Summary

As a results-driven software developer with a strong focus on delivering practical, effective solutions, I have a proven track record of success in creating high-quality software using Python and JavaScript.

I am passionate about continuously improving my skills and excel at building relationships with team members and clients.

With expertise in a range of technologies, including Python, JavaScript, Node.js, Typescript, DevOps, and cloud services, I am confident in my ability to make a valuable contribution to any organization.

My background in diverse areas such as consulting and freelance work has added a unique perspective to my understanding of industry needs and a wide range of software development.

My passion for innovation and excellence makes me a valuable addition to any team looking to grow and improve their software development processes.

I am available for both remote work and local work in the Waukesha, WI area.

Experience

Datum Consulting

Software Engineer

November 2024 - Present (1 year 11 months)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, United States

Currently leveraging Linux, Ansible, Semaphore, onedev, and guacamole to build custom internal computing systems with limited role based access to deploy a television display system around a large corporations.

NW Natural

Linux Systems Administrator

October 2023 - October 2024 (1 year 1 month)

Portland, Oregon, United States

Responsibilities

- **Managed and Maintained Linux Infrastructure:** Oversaw the management and maintenance of 200+ Linux virtual machines across on-premises VMware environments and Azure Cloud, ensuring 99.9% uptime and performance optimization.
- **Satellite & Capsule Server Administration:** Administered Red Hat Satellite with 3 capsule servers across 4 enterprise domains, streamlining patch management, configuration, and system updates.
- **Automated System Provisioning and Configuration:** Developed and maintained automated scripts for system provisioning, configuration management, and routine tasks using Puppet and Bash scripting, reducing manual workload.
- **Security and Compliance:** Implemented and maintained security measures across Linux systems, including firewall configurations, SELinux policies, and regular audits, ensuring compliance with industry standards and internal policies.

Findora Foundation

Validator Support Moderator

September 2023 - October 2024 (1 year 2 months)

Remote

Responsibilities

- **Blockchain Node Operator Validator Support and Onboarding:** Provided comprehensive support to new validators, guiding them through the setup and installation of Findora validator software, ensuring successful integration into the blockchain network.
- **Troubleshooting and Issue Resolution:** Diagnosed and resolved technical issues that may arise by validators during the installation, proper synchronization and operation of the Findora software, improving validator retention, resource efficiency, and stability of blockchain infrastructure.
- **Documentation and Knowledge Base Development:** Created and maintained detailed technical documentation, FAQs, node settings, and guides to assist validators in troubleshooting common issues and optimizing their setup.
- **Community Engagement and Support:** Actively participated in community forums and channels, addressing technical inquiries and providing timely solutions to enhance the overall validator experience.

- **Security Best Practices Advocacy:** Educated validators on security best practices, including key management, node security, and software updates, contributing to a more secure and resilient network.
- **Feedback Loop Creation:** Established a feedback loop with validators to gather insights and improve the Findora validator software, collaborating with developers to implement enhancements based on node health and performance metrics and user experiences.

PMT Services LLC

Founder, Full Stack Developer & Consultant

October 2019 - December 2023 (4 years 3 months)

Waukesha, Wisconsin, United States

As the Founder and Lead Developer at PMT Services LLC, I manage the development, deployment, and operation of blockchain validator nodes on networks like Harmony and Findora (now Fractal). My work focuses on development, community management, and ensuring the reliability and security of validator operations.

Key Achievements:

- **Validator Toolkits:** Created and refined Python toolkits for Harmony and Findora, streamlining the installation, configuration, and management of validator nodes, reducing operational overhead.
- **Easy Node API:** Developed the Easy Node API with Express.js, providing a backend service that improves blockchain data accessibility and usability.
- **Open-Source Documentation:** Established and maintain a Next.js/Markdown-based documentation platform, supporting community-driven knowledge sharing.
- **Mentorship:** Mentor junior developers and validators, fostering growth and productivity within the ecosystem.
- **Validator Pool Management:** Managed validator pools across blockchains, securing over \$2 million in cryptocurrency, ensuring uptime and security.
- **Monitoring & Maintenance:** Use open-source monitoring tools to ensure continuous uptime and perform routine server maintenance.
- **Open-Source Contributions:** Released multiple software packages on GitHub, supporting the broader blockchain community.

Core Responsibilities:

- **Validator Operations:** Install, configure, and manage validator nodes, ensuring optimal performance and compliance with network protocols.
- **Collaboration:** Work with cross-functional teams to deliver robust solutions tailored to blockchain validator needs.

- Lifecycle Management: Participate in all phases of software development, from requirements to deployment and maintenance.
- Research & Optimization: Conduct research to optimize validator operations and implement security enhancements.
- Community Support: Maintain technical documentation and provide community support, addressing issues and enhancing the validator experience.

Wisconsin Department of Corrections

Systems Administrator 1, 2 & 3

October 2019 - February 2022 (2 years 5 months)

Madison, Wisconsin, United States

Accomplishments

As a Linux-focused Systems Administrator for the State of Wisconsin, I was instrumental in the successful launch of the DevSecOps initiative, which significantly streamlined server provisioning processes and enhanced security across the organization.

Responsibilities

In my role as a Linux-focused Systems Administrator 3 for the State of Wisconsin, I was responsible for managing and supporting multiple domains and networks. My key responsibilities included:

- Comprehensive Server Support: Provided end-to-end server support across all DOC-managed networks and domains, ensuring optimal performance and availability.
- Windows & Linux Server Administration: Administered internal domains, managing both Windows and Linux servers, ensuring seamless integration and operation.
- DevSecOps Initiative: Played a pivotal role as a member of the DevSecOps team, contributing to the initiative's success by provisioning servers and providing ongoing support.
- System Updates & Maintenance: Regularly performed updates and maintenance on native applications across Linux systems, as well as within Kubernetes and Rancher environments.
- SaaS Services Management: Managed critical SaaS services, including GitLab, Jira, and password managers, ensuring their availability and security.
- Virtual Machine Provisioning: Requested, provisioned, and supported virtual machines for multiple internal teams, facilitating their project needs.

- Security Protocol Development: Developed and implemented security protocols to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, safeguarding sensitive data and infrastructure.
- Technical Documentation: Authored and maintained technical documents and standards, serving as a resource for both internal and external customers.

Datum Consulting

Lead Systems Administrator

June 2015 - October 2019 (4 years 5 months)

Greater Milwaukee Area

In addition to providing daily helpdesk support to over 50 local SMB in the Milwaukee area some of my other tasks included:

- Daily monitoring, analysis, and management of servers and workstations.
- Monitor overall health of all systems - Windows Workstations, Windows Servers, Linux Servers and Mac Workstations.
- Setup, analysis, and troubleshooting tasks related to Information Technology hardware and software, including installation or replacement of hardware components, cabling, peripherals, drivers, software, customization of system settings, and resolution of end user issues.
- Network protocol configuration and analysis, including identification and diagnosis of network connectivity, name resolution issues, and basic routing issues.
- Network administration tasks, such as the creation, modification, and maintenance of user accounts in Active Directory, Exchange Mailboxes, Printers, Group Policy Objects, Network Security, etc.
- VoIP Phone System Specialist - Fidelity, Nextiva, Cytracom and Asterisk/FreePBX systems
- Disaster Recovery - Server protection via hourly snapshots to cloud storage for instant virtualization in case of an outage or event
- Assist support desk staff as needed
- Creation and maintenance of documentation for: Disaster Recovery, Network Maps, Knowledge Base Articles, etc.
- Office 365 - Specialize moving clients from on premise Exchange (2003+), Zimbra, or any SMTP server to Office 365

CompuCom

Field Support Technician II

March 2015 - May 2015 (3 months)

Milwaukee, WI

I accepted a temporary 3 month role to help Rockwell Automation transition to a new external Information Technology support provider. Some of my daily tasks included:

- Level II Desktop Support at Rockwell Automation Headquarters in Milwaukee, WI
- 2nd level help desk ticketing system support for IT
- Primary support for Outlook, SAP, Active Directory, Symantec, and Dell Computers
- Coordinated with new IT provider to have a successful handoff to their new provider

Self Employed

Freelance Consultant

June 2005 - May 2015 (10 years)

Milwaukee, WI

Provide consulting for Milwaukee area small business in my spare time. I'm providing break/fix support along with doing daily IT operational items including:

- Replacement of outdated hardware
- Building replacement PCs
- On-call repairs when required
- Managing internet domains and web pages
- Consulting on future updates/upgrades

Dedicated Computing

13 years 1 month

Production Engineering Technician

March 2009 - May 2013 (4 years 3 months)

Waukesha, WI

- Support and maintain internal proprietary testing software
- Edit test scripts – XML and Python
- Update, patch and manage customer operating system images
- Level 2 hardware and operating system image support for production groups including 60+ employees via a help ticket system.
- Create custom operating system images for desktops and embedded systems, as well as customer recovery media
- Create and maintain media for use in production cells
- Server management for Sustaining Engineering department

Application Ready Server Hardware Technician

May 2011 - January 2012 (9 months)

- Member of this project team tasked in creating in-house software to catalog customer images
- Establish collection methods from 1000+ images
- Conduct software testing of interface and mechanics
- Coding VB.net interface to control command line tools
- Develop test cases for SCRUM testing
- Develop Windows 7 Embedded images for future automation
- Catalogue drivers into a searchable database by parts

Manufacturing Engineering Specialist

May 2000 - March 2009 (8 years 11 months)

- # Create, update and maintain Operational Method Sheets (OMS) used by all manufacturing cells
- # Process Engineering Change Orders from Sales, Product Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering departments
- # Perform Process Qualifications for new product launches
- # Combine multiple sources to create "One Document Work Instructions" for the all production teams
- # Assist with the implementation of 5S into all production teams

Education

Waukesha County Technical College

Associates, IT - Programmer/Analyst · (September 2006 - May 2010)

Milwaukee Area Technical College

Obtained at WCTC, supplemental classes here, Computer Programming, Specific Applications · (September 2008 - May 2010)