

CAREER PROFILE

25+ years experience on Linux/Unix server & container systems, inc Alpine, RedHat & CentOS, especially high-speed / high-availability database & server applications rising to spend the ten years as CTO & Complex Systems Architect for the dot-IO domain registry.

Designing and developing complex wide-area network server systems incorporating public & private clouds, fixed and dial-up VPNs, multiple v4 & v6 Anycast networks, with GSLB load balancing and failover, on a hardened Linux operating system.

Extensive full-stack development experience "C", Python, shells script & Javascript. Developing secure full-stack webapps, XML & Rest api services from the ground up. Designing & implementing secure Linux based operating systems, from the kernel up. Extensive experience in the use of a wide range of open source packages, including building from source.

Contributed & credited in a range of open source packages, including various utilities as well as the Linux Kernel and Kernel Support (Kernel Bugzilla).

Write high quality documentation, blog posts and general reporting. Give clear & well structured online and public presentations supported by network & service architecture diagrams, suitable for both a technical audience and those less familiar with the subject matter.

A wide ranging understanding of IT and its uses with a talent for being able to explain complex concepts & architectures to C-suite / non-IT executives, so they can understand the decisions that need to be made.

EXAMPLE CODE

- Javascript Rest/API WebApp - PowerDNS Web Admin UI
- DNS over HTTPS, Python Flask Example, inc as a container
- Python/ Flask EPP to rest/api gateway micro-service as a container
- General purpose MySQL data access rest/api as a container
- Utility for automatically maintaining a `bind` "catalog zone" in PowerDNS using its API

EXPERIENCE

Senior Linux Systems Architect

Nov 2019 - Jul 2022

Names.Of.London Ltd - Full time

Responsible for installing & running domain name registry systems on bare metal using Alpine Linux VMs, MySQL & docker containers

- Install and run a number of domain registry systems, running in docker containers on Alpine Linux VMs
- Install & configure prometheus / grafana for each system
- Javascript single-page application for **management of PowerDNS** using its Rest/API
- Various Python / Flask containers, e.g "DNS over HTTPS" application
- Architect conversion of VM Server based Domain Name Registry system into microservices system using Docker containers & migrate customers
- Design & develop various Docker containers for the Handshake blockchain/NFT



James Stevens

Lead Developer
Senior Systems Engineer

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 (*MyPhone*)

 CV: jrsc.net/cv/

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DOWNLOAD

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EDUCATION

BSc in Computer Science
University College Cardiff
(Russell Group)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)

French (Competent Tourist)

German (Needs Refreshing)

INTERESTS

Skiing

Hiking

Classic Car Restoration

Cooking

Psychology

project

Key Skills: Python / Flask, Docker/containers, nginx (proxy & web server), postfix, squid, shell script, C, Alpine Linux, PowerDNS, ISC "bind", Some NN (language models) & OpenAI API

Senior Linux Systems Engineer

Jul 2018 - Nov 2019

Large multinational B2B SaaS/PaaS Provider [ServiceNow](#), London (UK)

With a global private cloud of 1000s of servers, ServiceNow provides a PaaS for enterprise level ITIL compliant IT management used largely in the corporate and government markets.

The Systems Engineering Team architect, maintain and run all the infrastructure services that support the ServiceNow application - e.g. email, DNS, authentication and server / VM infrastructure

Role – Engineering Automation Developer / Subject Matter Expert for DNS

Architect a complete refactor of the internal DNS, using python & rest/APIs to automate common tasks, and add malware filtering. Present proposals for approval to upper management and fully implement without any service interruption.

Using Python and Rest/APIs, automate the teams ITIL change management submission and implement a full server / service validation / QA package, integrated with the ITIL system.

Help build an IL4 (high security) data centre for use by US government agencies, ensuring FIPS-140 compliance for DNS services.

Tech Skills: Linux (Centos / Redhat), networking, puppet, agile, ITIL, python, rest api, github / gerrit, DNS, DNSSEC, PowerDNS, "bind", vcenter / vmware, LDAP.

Soft Skills: Documenting & presenting proposals, documentation for 24/7 teams, co-ordinating projects across multiple teams & time-zones, technical presentations (live & on-line)

CTO, Lead Architect / Developer, Project Manager

Oct 2006 - Jan 2018

AC/SH/IO/TM ccTLD Domain Registry & [CommunityDNS](#), London UK

Dot-IO Domain registry was responsible for running and maintaining all domain names ending dot-IO, as well as those ending dot-AC, dot-SH and dot-TM. This involves running a full-stack registration / membership & renewal application, with an XML API, and all the necessary DNS infrastructure to ensure the domain names work 24/7/365

The spin-off business "CommunityDNS" runs 6 anycast global DNS networks with h/a clusters in over 50 locations, to provide an attack resistant DNS publishing platform for ccTLDs.

Lead Architect / Lead Developer / Project Manager - Domain Name Registry

Design, write, implement and run (24/7) a full-stack domain name registration & DNS publishing service. Includes designing the hardened operating system platform, server infrastructure and all necessary backup & failover strategies at multiple data centres - London (x4), New York (x2) and Chicago (x2) linked by VPN.

Backend: MySQL, "C", python, shell script

Frontend: XML API written in "C" and three full-stack WebUIs for end-users, resellers and customer services (internal) - "C", Javascript, python, HTML, CSS

Skills: Linux, KVM, networking & VPN, MySQL, Open Source, "C", shell script, python, HTML, CSS

Lead Architect / Lead Developer / Project Manager – DNS Anycast Service

Design, write, implement and run (24/7) an attack (esp D/DoS) resistant DNS

publishing & reporting service using a hardened Linux O/S and hardened DNS Server.

Skills: Linux, DNS, "C", VPN, IPv4 / IPv6,

Operating System Architect

1996 - 2006

Independent Linux Consultancy, London

Designing secure, hardened, ultra-reliable custom Linux based operating systems for embedded applications, e.g routers, network storage, firewalls, web proxy cache & filter, content distribution for education.

Sold and licensed Operating System designs and code to external vendors including 3-Com and ApplianSys

Freelance Contractor

1992 - 1996

Various, London

Mostly working with Sybase on Unix based system, especially Solaris, specialising in front-office trading systems for merchant banks. Clients included BNP Paribas (French Bank), Goldman Sachs, Sun Microsystems as well as various software vendors.

Systems Developer - Database Vendor

1990 - 1992

InterSystems Corp, UK / Boston

Covering in the EMEA territory from the office in the UK, but with frequent time spent working on technical issues at the head office in Cambridge MA. Providing technical backup for the front-line customer support staff.

This includes analysing technical issues, fixing bugs and porting the product to new platforms. Accompanying sales and/or support staff on customer visits throughout the EMEA territory.

Systems Developer - Accounting & Time-Costing Systems

1988 - 1990

Radius-CBSL, Cardiff

Providing technical support and technical development services to teams of developers and customer support staff for SCO/Unix based Ingress accounting and time-costing system for SMEs.



PROJECTS

PowerDNS Managment - Architect, Project Lead & Lead Developer, 100%

Javascript webapp talking to PowerDNS RestAPI for complete data management, inc DNSSEC.

TM Domain Registry - Architect, Project Lead & Lead Developer, Full-Stack Development. MySQL, C, python & shell-script backend to HTML/CSS/JavaScript frontend & XML/API

CommunityDNS - Architect, Project Lead & Lead Developer, IPv4 & IPv6 Anycast DNS publishing & reporting system

Technical Blog - A technical blog relating to the New Top Level Domains and Domain Name industry, but also including security issues and product specific

information.

SlimLinux - Cut down hardened Linux distribution, demo'ed as a DNS server - full operating system and application package is about 36Mb

ApplianSys - Hardware vendor selling network appliance solutions based on my operating system design



SKILLS & PROFICIENCY

Linux, Operating System design & security, scripting



SQL Databases
(MySQL, Sybase)



Back-end Web, Apps & Security



"C" Developer



"Python" Developer



Domain Names, DNS, DNSSEC, PowerDNS & Bind



Firewalls, WANs, IPv4, IPv6, BGP, Load Balancing, Anycast



Javascript, JSON, AJAX



HTML, CSS, UX/UI



Social Media Marketing esp Twitter, SEO

