Erik Patton

Senior Site Reliability / DevOps / Systems Engineer

Veteran systems engineer with experience in DevOps, Linux system administration, and software engineering. Industry experience in defense, entertainment, and higher education sectors.

CONTACT

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📍 Boston, MA USA

SKILLS

Cloud & Containerization
AWS (S3, EC2, VPC, etc.)
VMWare (ESXi, vSphere)
Podman (Docker)

Infrastructure as Code
Hashicorp Packer, Vault
Puppet, Ansible

Monitoring
Nagios, Logstash (ELK)

Linux System Admin
Authentication
Security
Network File System (NFS)
Apache Web Server
Directory Server (LDAP)

Software Engineering
GitHub, GitLab
Python
bash
C/C++
Node.js/Express

WORK HISTORY

Engineering Manager   2017-current
Tufts University   *Medford, MA*

- Directed and participated in extensive technical evaluation of possible migration to AWS for the Computer Science and Electrical Engineering academic departments. Evaluated feasibility of different migration scenarios against cost, complexity, and migration duration.

- Designed prototype AWS environment to allow CS classes to utilize AWS provided GPU hardware for courses in deep learning and AI. Primary components included VPC design, IAM credential management, S3/EFS/FSx storage provisioning, and EC2 deployment. EC2 images configured on RHEL 7 with latest CUDA and Python modules PyTorch, TensorFlow, pandas, etc.

- Automated EC2 instance deployment to AWS using Packer and Ansible. Deployment times reduced from approximately three hours using kickstart and custom post-installation scripts to several minutes.

- Deployed the Elastic, Logstash, and Kibana (ELK) stack with custom dashboards to improve system observability across 100+ servers. Quantified performance trends such as user count, memory usage, and CPU load over time while also finding system errors not identified using in-house log parsing scripts.

- Introduced, designed, and implemented Puppet for configuration management. This removed the need for custom bash scripts that relied on ssh keys and rsync. Changes to existing infrastructure of 300+ physical and virtual systems are now synced in 30 minutes, or at boot time if offline.

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EDUCATION

B.S. Computer Science
Oregon State University
(finishing 2024)

B.A. Geography
Kansas State University

M.A. Geography
University of Kansas

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language

German: Level B2 mit *Zerfikat Deutsch für den Beruf*

OTHER

Phi Beta Kappa
National Honor Society

Eagle Scout

Film Credits
- Shrek
- Shrek 2

Top Secret Clearance
(expired 2005)

Senior System Administrator	2006-2017
Tufts University	*Medford, MA*

- Software development of internal tools for several applications including user account life cycle management, LDAP administration, and DNS and DHCP server configuration. Emphasis on efficiency and code maintenance through use of git, library module reuse, and leveraging standardized data formats such as JSON, YAML, etc. Languages used include python, ruby, bash, and perl.

- General system administration of Red Hat Linux for desktop and server systems. Automated provisioning (kickstart), authentication (sssd/pam/authconfig), security (firewalld/ssshd/sudo/file permissions), host network configuration (dns/dhcp), storage (nfs with automounter), etc.

- Migrated a large monolithic physical server used by students for coursework to a series of VMWare virtual machines using simple round-robin DNS. Reduced weekly system crashes from bad student code by 90%.

Senior System Administrator	2006
Harvard University (contract)	*Cambridge, MA*
Senior System Administrator	2001-2006
DreamWorks Animation	*Redwood City, CA*
System Administrator	2001
Lockheed Martin (contract)	*Sunnyvale, CA*
System Administrator	1998-2001
Logicon	*Grafenwoehr, Germany*
GIS Developer	1996-1997
Cubic Applications	*Grafenwoehr, Germany*