



Andrew Meredith BEng CEng CIP MBCS MIET ICT Systems and Software Engineer

Contact Details

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Nationality: British

Summary

I am a creative, innovative and highly competent IT Systems and Software Engineer with around 25 years experience. I have a broad background in ICT systems from commercial communications to home desktop PCs, with extensive software development and systems administration experience. I enjoy challenging, problem-solving roles that enable me to use my skills and knowledge to find the most elegant, efficient and cost-effective solutions.

Specialities

Unix/Linux Systems Administration (RHEL/CentOS/Fedora)
Information Systems Design and Installation
TCP/IP Networking Design and Installation
IT Trainer

Previous Experience

"Classic" Unix Systems - AIX / SunOS / Solaris / HPUX / Xenix
Software Lifecycle and Code Management Engineering (SEI Level 5)
Standards Engineer
Java/C/C++ Software Development

Not security cleared

Additional Qualifications and Accreditation

Novell Certified Linux Administrator

Issuer: Novell Inc.

Valid from: 09-Feb-2010

Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHL 6.1) (806100140100707)

Issuer: Red Hat UK

Valid from: 01-Dec-1999

Chartered Member British Computer Society - <http://www.bcs.org.uk/>

Since: May-1999

Chartered Member Institution of Engineering and Technology - <http://www.iet.org.uk/>

Since: Jun-1984

Formerly the IEE, which I joined at the student grade in college.

Motorcycle Instructors Diploma

Issuer: RoSPA Advanced Driving and Riding Association

Valid from: 01-Dec-1999 – Lapsed 2019

Experience

Systems Administrator – Mango Solutions

Mar 2011 – Jan 31st 2020

Mango had a suite of over 120 Linux servers for development and testing of software and for running Mango's business services. The DNS, Web, FTP, and Email services for the company were run from our own infrastructure.

I was responsible for designing, building and maintaining most of these systems. The machines are mostly virtual, provided on Linux KVM virtualisation. They are all backed up and monitored through systems I put in place using Amanda Backup and Nagios/Check_MK.

As postmaster I was responsible for setting up, configuring and maintaining mail servers, spam filters, virus protection and spam triaging systems for the company.

The company hosts its own DNS services and I have been responsible for maintaining and updating the zone records and ensuring that we have a highly available DNS system.

I have also been closely involved with a number of customer facing projects, generally on the system install side, developing safe, clean rpm based install packages.

I have successfully ported open source systems to previously unsupported platforms, which involved such work as correcting the byte order in C macros and other such low level issues; and then packaging the result for automated production installation.

Cloud systems such as AWS and GCP are being used for some customer and company functions. I merged a Cloud Tape solution into our existing tape robot based Amanda Backup based system and have been part of the move to shift some of our currently on premises BAU systems to GCP, AWS and Office 365

A sample of the systems I have been responsible for are as follows:

- Linux System hosting using Linux/KVM
- Centralised Logging using Elasticsearch/Kibana
- DNS using BIND
- Web services using Apache, CentOS and GCP
- FTP hosting using vsftpd
- Email using postfix/MailScanner/SpamAssassin/ClamAV
- System monitoring using Nagios/Check_MK
- System Backups using Amanda Backup

Independent ICT Systems Engineer

Jul '08 – Mar '11

I elected to close down "The Anvil Organisation Ltd" at the end of June 2008. I have continued to provide services for both established and new customers whilst enjoying being a new father.

Managing Director – The Anvil Organisation Ltd.

Self-employed

Jun '00 – Jul '08

As the owner/operator I looked after all aspects of the company from sales and strategy, accounts and marketing. I also ensured that my customers received a first class service and that their IT infrastructures were reliable and effective in supporting their businesses. My services included daily monitoring of logs and notification emails and making sure that any service alerts from my the monitoring system were handled swiftly and without any user-affecting incidents. Customers were mainly small businesses who wanted their ICT services hosted on their own equipment and to be able to run open source software in order to be in full control of their businesses.

Through this period, I was also deployed by various training organisations to present both public and on-site courses in Unix and Linux Systems Administration at all levels and software development using C, C++, Shell Scripting & Java. For several years I was the main Red Hat RHCE instructor and examiner for Red Hat's UK training operation.

Lead IT Systems Engineer - Motorola - GSM Systems Division

Permanent contract

Feb '92 - Apr '00

My role involved assessing project requirements and delivering design, implementation, installation, training, administration and user feedback monitoring for both Software Engineering projects and IT systems.

For example I was the originator, architect, lead developer and team leader for a commercial product to configure Motorola GSM Base Sites called DataGen. I am given to understand it is still sold today and still commands a 5 digit price tag per seat.

I represented Motorola at European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI). I was made "Rapporteur" for the "Short Message Service - Cell Broadcast" document defining the key protocol between the Cell Broadcast Controller and the GSM radio equipment.

I was designated team leader, lead designer and lead programmer on a project to create the first Cell Broadcast Centre to go live on a European GSM network.

I was an internal consultant to other departments on IT issues and an internal trainer for TCP/IP, Unix Admin, C & C++ programming.

Systems Engineer - Advanced Digital Technology (UK) Ltd

Chippenham, United Kingdom - Permanent contract

Jul '89 - Jan '92

A small (formerly) Unix based IT supplier specialising in small business systems. I was responsible for design, implementation and subsequent support for a number of bespoke UNIX systems using C, Bourne Shell, Sculptor 4GL & SQL, Informix SQL & C-ISAM. I also provided telephone support for: PCs, Printers, VDUs, Bespoke Systems, UNIX, MSDOS, Windows 3.0.

Software Engineer - Creativity Software Limited

Nr. Malham, N. Yorks, United Kingdom - Permanent Contract

Sep '88 - Jun '89

The software wing of a group of management consultancy companies.

I worked with the Technical Director on the design, implementation and extension of a PC based graphical planning tool for senior executives, written in Turbo Pascal. From February 1989 I spent a proportion of my time with clients, installing and updating their systems and discussing future extensions. I was involved in the logistical planning for several Board-level computer based conferences. I also set up the conference equipment and provided on-site technical assistance.

Mechanic/Salesman - Cotswold Camping

Temporary Contract

Jan '78 - Jan '82

Mechanic/Salesman for Outdoor Pursuits equipment and Bicycles.

Education

Polytechnic of Huddersfield, Huddersfield, United Kingdom **1984 - 1988**

BEng Electrical & Electronic Engineering ()

Electronic Design, Communication Systems, VLSI Systems, Computer Engineering, Intelligent Systems
Final Year Project: Designing, building and testing a high quality stereo active 3-way cross-over network for use in a 3-way hi-fi amplifier or a PA system

Hereford Cathedral School, Hereford, United Kingdom **1977 - 1984**

O, OA & A Levels