



Michael Tatum

Senior Linux Systems Engineer

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Summary

Senior Linux Systems Engineer. Dedicated Infrastructure Engineer with over 15 years of experience specializing in the maintenance and stability of enterprise Linux environments (RHEL, CentOS, Oracle Linux). Expert in server sustainment, patch management, and security compliance for large-scale fleets. Achieved 99.9% uptime through proactive cybersecurity vulnerability scanning, patching, and reliable automation (Ansible) with continuous monitoring. Proven track record of maintaining infrastructure stability while enforcing strict security hardening practices. Looking for a stable, long-term individual contributor role focused on maintaining and optimizing existing infrastructure.

Certifications

AZ-900: Azure Fundamentals

2024-09

Microsoft

Linux/UNIX Server Administrator

Certificate

2012-05

Gwinnett Technical College

PC Repair and Network Technician

Certificate

2011-05

Gwinnett Technical College

Experience

Accruent

Mar 2019 - Present

Systems Engineer II

- Promoted to Systems Engineer II in 2022 after recognition for outstanding contributions to cloud infrastructure management.
- Orchestrated and streamlined multi-cloud environments, ensuring seamless administration within Accruent CloudOps for peak performance and reliability across 4 software products, 4 public clouds, and 5 geo-locations, managing approximately 1,000 servers.
- Implemented and maintained highly available, redundant international data centers to facilitate global application deployments using Java and Apache Tomcat, spanning 5-7 environment levels, including production.
- Fortified RedHat Linux, CentOS Linux, and Oracle Enterprise Linux systems, prioritizing stability and security.
- Executed proactive cybersecurity vulnerability scanning and patching to uphold compliance and shield infrastructure, achieving a record-low Nexpose score below 7k.
- Enhanced application availability and performance by strategically deploying and tuning F5 routing and load-balancing, utilizing HA pools for failover.
- Engineered automated infrastructure pipelines (Ansible/Bash), reducing manual maintenance overhead by ~80% and recovering engineering hours monthly, directly lowering departmental OpEx.
- Architected and deployed a zero-cost Disaster Recovery (DR) preparation automation tool using Bash, secure rsync over SSH, and structured logging; eliminated a legacy, error-prone manual process and completed data synchronization validation weeks ahead of schedule to significantly reduce failover execution risk.
- Designed and executed an enterprise-wide firewall audit and enforcement framework across all Verisae nodes; standardized rule sets to eliminate configuration drift, reduced the network attack surface, and established continuous compliance to guarantee audit readiness.
- Designed and automated an enterprise SSH key lifecycle framework across all Verisae nodes; established structural guardrails for key deployment, pruning, and rotational compliance to mitigate unauthorized lateral movement risks.
- Engineered a portable enterprise repository template integrating automated Makefile workflows and GitHub Actions CI pipelines; implemented embedded security tooling (Trivy scanning, Dependabot) and structured documentation logic with Mermaid support to mandate shift-left compliance at repository initialization.
- Authored and deployed production-grade, idempotent Ansible playbooks to execute automated monthly maintenance cycles, effectively eliminating race conditions and ensuring configuration consistency across the server fleet.

SiftDNS

May 2025 - Feb 2026

Founder / Owner / Operator

- Strategically sunset SiftDNS operations following a risk-benefit analysis of the evolving global regulatory landscape and the increasing compliance overhead required for independent DNS providers.
- Engineered high-availability DNS infrastructure serving 630K+ blocked domains with load balancing and multi-region deployment across DigitalOcean cloud datacenters, maintaining infrastructure OpEx under \$150/month while delivering sub-50ms latency—demonstrating lean architectural design and cost optimization.
- Automated deployment pipeline with infrastructure-as-code for consistent configuration management and provisioning, achieving 99.9% uptime target.
- Optimized DNS query performance to sub-50ms response times through recursive caching and direct root server queries, reducing upstream requests.
- Implemented zero-logging security architecture with strict firewall rules and DDoS protection.

- Built auto-scaling infrastructure with triggers at 70% CPU utilization and automated backup rotation using weekly snapshots.
- Launched subscription-based SaaS product with \$3/month pricing model, 30-day free trial, and payment API integration for automated recurring billing.
- Delivered measurable user value with documented latency improvements (27ms to 9ms for gaming) and complete ad elimination across major websites.
- Developed comprehensive go-to-market strategy including device-specific setup guides, customer testimonials, and multi-platform compatibility.
- Designed scalable business model with individual and enterprise tiers, targeting privacy-conscious consumers and business customers.

MicroAssist

Mar 2016 - Feb 2019

Linux Systems Engineer

- Served as the lead engineer for all Linux server operations, maintaining system uptime and security through a continuous 24/7 on-call schedule for over three years.
- Orchestrated and executed a full-scale migration of ~50 on-premises Linux servers and applications to the DigitalOcean Cloud.
- Engineered and maintained a scalable cloud infrastructure within a Linux-based environment, specializing in RHEL systems, supporting tens of thousands of routine users and a lifetime of approximately 100,000 users.
- Independently architected and deployed a FormaLMS solution on Cloud Linux to replace Docebo, owning the full stack implementation including OS hardening, MySQL migration, and web server configuration.
- Pioneered the implementation of network monitoring and logging systems, improving performance and securing the network, and achieving a 300% increase in log diagnosis speed.
- Hardened and optimized Apache web servers, amplifying performance and resolving vulnerabilities, and expediting patching by an estimated 400%.
- Maintained and streamlined server operations for Moodle LMS, WordPress, Drupal, Redmine, and Jira, achieving consistent performance and compressing build times from days to hours via Bash automation.
- Enhanced and secured MariaDB/MySQL databases, bolstering application performance and data integrity, and streamlining responsiveness through isolation strategies.
- Audited network configurations with Nmap scripts, documenting ~100 network devices; maintained documentation to ensure compliance with industry security standards.
- Employed Nginx for robust proxying and load balancing to construct a scalable system architecture.
- Implemented data backup and recovery processes for ~30 Linux servers, with a recovery time objective (RTO) of <2 hours.

Austin Community College

Aug 2015 - May 2016

Adjunct Professor

- Prepared comprehensive instruction on Linux and UNIX systems, focusing on practical applications and theoretical concepts.
- Designed and arranged curricula to address diverse student learning needs in alignment with academic standards.
- Facilitated classroom discussions and hands-on labs, enhancing students' technical proficiency with operating system environments.
- Assessed student performance through tailored assignments, exams, and feedback to ensure mastery of subject matter.
- Maintained up-to-date knowledge of industry trends to provide relevant and current course content.
- Promoted a collaborative learning environment by encouraging active participation and peer interaction during lessons.

Astrey at Google

Jun 2015 - Mar 2016

EMT+ (IT Support)

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Delivered and maintained critical technical support within a MacOS Google corporate domain, ensuring maximum system and equipment functionality for ~250 Nest call center employees.

- Upheld infrastructure reliability through proactive hardware maintenance, diagnosing, repairing, and upgrading a fleet of roughly 200 Mac workstations.
- Orchestrated operating system and software updates to enforce compliance with Google corporate standards and security protocols.
- Mitigated networking system issues by pinpointing connectivity problems and implementing solutions to minimize downtime.
- Streamlined CAMP inventory management processes for IT assets, guaranteeing accurate tracking and equipment availability.
- Triaged and resolved user support requests via Help Desk ticketing systems, expediting technical solutions to elevate end-user productivity.

Peniel Solutions

Feb 2012 - May 2015

Desktop Technician

- Sustained and troubleshot a Windows 7 corporate domain environment, ensuring system stability and compliance.
- Pioneered a streamlined update process for all company-approved software, reducing update time and fortifying consistent security protocols.
- Accelerated workstation support, including hardware installation, diagnostics, and repairs, adhering to company protocols.
- Configured network settings and corrected networking issues to guarantee seamless connectivity and user productivity.
- Started mobile device management strategies and secured devices within the corporate infrastructure.
- Optimized backup management processes and refined user support through Help Desk ticketing systems for rapid issue resolution.

Education

Georgia Gwinnett College

BS

Information Technology: Systems and Security

Aug 2012 - May 2015

Gwinnett Technical College

AAS

Linux/UNIX Networking

Aug 2010 - May 2012