Mat Stace

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Summary

A Web Operations / Linux Infrastructure Engineer with a keen interest in technology, and in particular how the infrastructure / systems department can fully integrate with the entire business to improve communication and processes throughout the whole company.

Work Experience

7digital, London, UK

System Administrator/Web Operations Engineer - June 2011 to present   Part of a team of web operations engineers working in an agile/devops environment, who are responsible for running the infrastructure which powers the company's web applications stacks, including traditional websites, APIs, and streaming media delivery, across a heterogeneous environment of physical and virtual linux and windows servers, using both KVM and VMWare ESXi for virtualisation.

My most recent projects have included leading the successful build and roll out of a new logging platform, based around what is beccomming known as the ELK stack (Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana), working as part of a team to bring a test-driven approach to the deployment and configuration of various infrastructure components, using Jenkins, Vagrant, bats, and Serverspec.

Technologies supported include Windows servers running IIS, Nginx, and MSSQL, and both Debian and Red Hat based linux servers running a wide range of services and daemons, including Apache, Nginx, HAProxy, Varnish, MySQL, Memcached, Redis, Elasticsearch, Logstash, Bacula, PowerDNS, Exim, Postfix, Sendmail, Zabbix, Statsd, Graphite, ProFTPd, and KVM and VMWare ESXi for virtualisation. We use CFEngine, and have also evaluated Chef and Puppet.

Research Now, London, UK

Unix Administrator and Postmaster - November 2010 to June 2011
While at Research Now, my time was spent building, deploying, and maintaining a new email infrastructure, for a system which sent between four and five million emails per day. This was achieved using Red Hat Enterprise Linux, and

PowerMTA for the outbound emails, and exim/ClamAV for the incoming email servers.

Distilled, London, UK

System Administrator - January 2010 to November 2010

Developer - October 2008 to November 2010   I originally joined Distilled as a LAMP web application developer, but when the system administrator left, I took on this role in addition to my web development work. As the sole system administrator for a small agency, this work covered everything from comissioning and maintaining servers, through office intranets and phone systems, to desktop support for a heterogeneous Windows, Linux, and Mac environment. The servers were a mix of Debian, Ubuntu, and CentOS, and the technology stack included (but was not limited to) Apache, Varnish, NGinx, MySQL

Colewood Internet, Essex, UK

Developer - March 2004 to September 2008   Although my role at Colewood was that of web application developer (using the LAMP stack), Colewood was a company of three people, and as "the techie one", I also dealt with the servers (although we used a semi-managed hosting solution, so there was a lot of hand holding from the hosting companies we used). In addition to the LAMP development and dealing with servers, I also designed and built a VoIP system based on Asterisk, with the dual objectives of reducing the operating expenditure with BT, and also allowing the creation of a virtual office, to begin the transition to remote working.

Education

University of Portsmouth

2:1 BSc (Hons) Internet Technology - 2000 to 2003

Queen Elizabeth I Sixth Form College, Darlington - 1995 to 1997

A-Levels   Physics - B Mathematics - C Information Technology - D

King James I Comprehensive School, Bishop Auckland - 1990 to 1995

GSCEs   Ten GCSEs including Maths, Science and English.

Hobbies and Other Interests

Outside of work I like to keep up to date with a wide range of technology news (that is the polite way of saying that I am a bit of a gadget hound), and when I do manage to tear myself away from the various technology blogs, I like to listen to music, play bass guitar (badly), and am in the process of attaining my amateur radio licenses.