

Charlie Brown

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Personal Summary

Hands-on IT technician with a strong mix of practical problem-solving, hardware knowledge, and modern tooling. I'm comfortable jumping between system troubleshooting, network configuration, scripting, and building custom workflows that make life easier for users and teams. I learn fast, adapt quickly, and take pride in clean, efficient solutions – whether that's fixing a stubborn machine, wiring up a new environment, or building tools from scratch.

Technical Skills

Core IT & Systems

- Windows & Linux administration
- Hardware diagnostics & repair
- Networking fundamentals (Cisco-trained)
- System imaging, deployment, and maintenance
- Troubleshooting across desktops, laptops, and peripherals

Scripting & Automation

- Bash
- PowerShell
- Workflow automation
- Custom tooling for setup, monitoring, and system tasks

Development & Tools

- VSCode extension development
- React + TypeScript (dashboard projects)
- Git / GitHub

- Terminal customization (Zsh, Kitty, tmux)
- Fastfetch / Neofetch scripting
- Basic backend logic (Node.js)

Other Technical Strengths

- Cooling and airflow optimization
- Hardware modding and upgrades
- Adapter mods, M.2 risers, external WiFi modules
- ThinkPad/ThinkCentre restoration and troubleshooting

Work Experience

IT Technician / Systems Support (Freelance & Contract Work)

2021 — Present

- Diagnosed and repaired hardware issues across desktops, laptops, and custom builds.
- Configured and maintained Windows and Linux systems, including user environments, drivers, and network settings.
- Set up small-scale networks, routers, and switches using Cisco-aligned practices.
- Built custom scripts to automate system setup, monitoring, and maintenance tasks.
- Assisted users with software issues, account problems, and general IT support.
- Performed hardware upgrades, cooling improvements, and system optimisation for performance and noise reduction.

Technical Hobbyist / Builder (Ongoing Personal Work)

2018 — Present

- Restored classic ThinkPads and ThinkCentre hardware, diagnosing firmware, slot, and module issues.
- Designed and built modular hardware setups, including external WiFi card modules and custom adapters.
- Experimented with M.2 to USB/PCIe mods, risers, and breakout boards.

- Performed GPU re-pasting, fan curve tuning, and airflow optimization on multiple systems.

Projects

Specter — Custom Kitty Terminal Fork

- Modified spawn logic, rendering pipeline, and default shell behavior.
- Added GPU-accelerated blur, overlays, and cinematic effects.
- Documented the project in multiple tones (mythic, sarcastic, technical).

Ftop — Expressive System Dashboard

- Built a modular, animated terminal dashboard with resource monitoring.
- Integrated ASCII art, overlays, and custom startup rituals.

VSCode YouTube Mini Player Extension

- Scaffolded and wired a custom VSCode extension to embed a docked YouTube mini player.
- Added dynamic loading, playback controls, and UI polish.

React + TypeScript Stats Dashboard

- Designed a local dashboard combining WakaTime coding metrics with live system stats.
- Built a clean frontend with modular components and real-time updates.

Hardware Mods & Builds

- Externalized WiFi cards using custom adapters and branded modules.
- Built and tuned cooling setups for NZXT H210i systems, including GPU undervolting and fan curve optimization.

Education & Certifications

- **GCSEs**
- **Cisco CCNA (with Cybersecurity content)**

- Additional self-taught experience across scripting, hardware, and software development