Ben A. Mendis

602 Burnt Mills Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20901
ben.mendis@gmail.com +1 301-244-8678

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2003 – 2010 Montgomery College

- Completed 41 credit hours including courses in Java, Unix and Computer Security

2004 CompTIA A+ Certification
2003 Earned the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America

CAPABILITIES

- **Programming Languages:** Scala, Java, Python, Bash, Sh, C, C++, C#, Erlang, JavaScript, Lua, Perl, PHP, Ruby, XQuery, XSLT
  - **Scala:** 1 year, Akka, SBT
  - **Java:** 5 years, Servlets, JSP, POJO, Apache Commons IO, Apache Commons Logging, Bouncy Castle
  - **XSLT:** 5 years, 1.0 & 2.0, Saxon/Xalan/MSXML/xsltproc
  - **Python:** 6 years, PIL, CherryPy
  - **Bash/Sh:** 8 years, sed, awk, named pipes
- **Development Tools:** Ant, SBT, Make, Autotools, JUnit, Subversion, Git, Mercurial, Bazaar, GDB, JavaDoc/ScalaDoc, IzPack
  - **Ant:** 5 years, Java, Scala, DITA-OT
  - **Make:** 7 years, C, C++
  - **JUnit:** 2 years
  - **Git:** 4 years, Github, resolve merge conflicts, submodules, custom hook scripts
  - **Subversion:** 6 years
- **Web Applications:** JBoss, Tomcat, Apache, CGI, SOAP, REST, Apache Axis, HTML/CSS, MySQL, DHT, Amazon Web Services, Heroku
- **Operating Systems:** Windows, Linux, Mac OS X, Solaris, HP-UX
  - **Windows:** 9x, 2000, XP, Server 2003, Vista, Server 2008, 7
  - **Linux:** Slackware, Ubuntu, RHEL, Debian, Gentoo, OpenWRT
    - Over 10 years on Slackware
    - Package maintainer for SlackBuilds.org
    - Developed two custom live distros (TapDrive and Byzantium)
- **Networking:** 802.11, IPv4, IPv6, TCP/IP, Netfilter (iptables), Mesh
- **Security:** Kismet, Wireshark, Metasploit, Fwknop, Nmap, Snort, OpenPGP, PKI, SCAP
  - Penetration testing
  - Threat analysis
  - Forensics

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Support Specialist/Sysadmin/Software Engineer, Antenna House Inc., November 2007-present
Kensington, MD
Antenna House is a world leader in automated document formatting and typesetting. The flagship product, AH Formatter, is used by many of the worlds largest companies and government organizations in their automated publishing systems.
The company is privately held and has fewer than 100 employees.

- Assisted customers, particularly in the areas of deployment and integration. Supported deployments on Windows, Linux, Solaris, Mac OS X, and HP-UX. Supported integrations using C, C++, COM, Java, .Net (C#, VB.Net), and scripting languages
- Engineered a sigificant piece of the purchase order system used by Boeing. Written in Java, about 1500 lines of code ('wc -l' method). Wrote a custom thread pool class to handle unique deployment requirements. Used reflection to support multiple file-types.
- Maintained critical infrastructure including testing systems, demo servers, development servers and repositories, ticketing system, and periodic backups. Recommended and performed a migration from Mojo Helpdesk to a self-hosted RequestTracker installation. Doubled the number of tickets handled per day and halved the response time on new tickets.
- Developed product samples, online demos, alternative APIs, and internal tools to test customer-reported issues and validate fixes. Led the design and development of a visual regression testing tool which is now becoming a commercial product offering.

Vice President, HacDC, February 2011-present (Member since 2009)
Columbia Heights, DC
HacDC is a Makerspace in DC and a registered 501c3. We act as a hub for DC-area residents who are passionate about technology, art, and education. HacDC provides space for collaboration, tools for DIY fabrication, and organizes lectures, workshops and social events to connect DC's geeks and artists.

- Led the design and development of Project Byzantium, a live Linux distribution that enables rapid deployment of a mesh network in emergency situations such as natural disasters or political protests. We have collaborated with developers from around the world, given talks at security and technology conferences, been interviewed by NPR and Slashdot, and were mentioned by Fast Company.
- Teach an introduction to Computer Science class based on “The Elements of Computing Systems”. It is a one-semester course in which students build a simple but functional 16-bit computer system from NAND gates all the way up to a high-level language and operating system.

Senior Product Engineer and CSO, TAP Innovations LLC, November 2009 – February 2011
Alexandria, VA
TAP Innovations was a start-up that aimed to deliver a secure computing environment that could offer consumer and businesses the ultimate peace of mind when conducting sensitive business online.

- Engineered a security-hardened, live-bootable re-spin of Ubuntu Linux with several unique innovations. The core operating system was installed on a hidden, read-only partition to prevent

intentional or accidental tampering. All the user's settings and files were stored encrypted on the visible, primary partition. Files could be copied on like a normal thumb drive and they would appear in a special unencrypted shared-directory on the user's desktop.
- Developed a methodology for securely updating the read-only OS using a second hidden partition, an overlay file system, and cryptographically signed update packages.
- The distribution passed a security assessment conducted by Securicon LLC.

Information Technology Expert, Innove Technologies LLC, March 2006 – December 2009
Kensington, MD
Innove Technologies is a small consulting firm specializing in social media marketing, reputation management, and web application development. Under the FiveStar Wi-Fi brand name they sell a line of Wi-Fi Hotspot related products to help small businesses stay competitive.

- Provided expertise in areas of wireless networking, security, and Linux administration.
- Developed the FiveStar Wi-Fi products:
  - Wi-Fi Printing System: One of the earliest wireless printing systems on the market. Supported printing from iOS and Android before either Apple or Google had addressed this natively.
  - SpotFox: A Wi-Fi availability monitoring system. Provides end-users with a clear indicator of the status of the establishment's Wi-Fi network and the appropriate connection details. Provides the business owner with logging of network down-time so that they could collect from their WISP when it exceeded the SLA.
  - Wi-Fi Web 2.0 Portal: An advanced captive-portal system with social-network integration, QoS/traffic shaping, and per-session time-outs that nag users to buy another coffee. It also provided logging and metrics for the business owner so they could track busy hours or percentage and frequency of return users.
- Developed and maintained plugins for the Openfire XMPP Server (Java) which were used to build a social networking site for a company called MusicianLink, and allowed their JamLink devices to connect with each other.