Andrew Frederick Cowie

rmc, BEng

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Capabilities

Extensive Technology Background

Experience as a software developer, systems engineer, and management consultant, both in leadership roles and as a practising technologist. Extensive competence in improving organizational structures, optimizing infrastructure, and re-engineering systems.

Long experience with Linux, open source, and distributed systems. Remarkable success when troubleshooting, especially enterprise, e-commerce, and large-scale data analytics platforms. Have designed network, compute, and storage infrastructure for cloud deployments and taken them from concept through provisioning into commercial operation.

Currently managing the Systems Engineering team bridging between Platform-as-a-Service and Cyber Security at a major Australian bank, building mechanisms to make automate compliance with risk controls.

Business Process Improvement

Experienced in change management, process development, and using procedures to execute massive changes and upgrades to mission critical systems. Emphasis on successfully integrating people with processes. Track record of making sound decisions in time-critical situations.

Consulting Experience

Have worked at levels ranging from boardroom to implementation. Extensive work in project review, change management, and improving operations practises. Solid understanding of how to work within processes to achieve goals. Skilled at financial modelling, cost control, and formulation of arguments in business plan form. Have also facilitated growth of startups and young companies, especially scaling IT systems from initial pilot projects to heavy loaded production platforms.

Open Source

Long time open source contributor and advocate. Lead author and maintainer of several projects, and broad contributions to many others.

Considerable software development expertise writing end-user programs, web applications, and systems tools. Recent work has been almost entirely in the Haskell functional programming language, informed by a background writing code in C, Shell, Java, and Perl.

Accomplished Communicator

Strong presentation and communication skills. Numerous articles and papers published. Frequent speaker at conferences on topics of operations professionalism, open source development, decision making within technology contexts, and culture in the information age.

Awards

Recipient of the Governor General's Bronze Medal (awarded to the student having the highest scholastic achievement in their high school graduating class) and won the Drill and Exercises prize, 2nd Year at RMC (awarded to the top officer cadet in his or her class). Earned a distinction on the Officer Professional Development and Field Operations exams. Awarded membership in the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute and the Australian Computer Society.

Interests

Enjoy distance running, trekking, and for a time studied Aikido. Read extensively on science, business, and international relations. Now pursuing research in Systems Engineering looking at applying probability and simulation to better manage complex organizations. Young family but still an avid connoisseur of cappuccino, martinis, and world class DJs.

Education

Royal Military College
Bachelor of Engineering
(Engineering Physics)
Kingston, 1991-1995

Shad Valley
Science, Technology & Business
Ottawa, summer 1990

Career

Commonwealth Bank
Engineering Manager
- Systems Engineering
- Analytics & Information
Sydney, 2015-

Anchor Systems
Head of Engineering
- Private Cloud Infrastructure
Sydney, 2013-2015

Operational Dynamics
Consulting Engineer
- Corporate Advisory
- IT Operations Management
- Software Development & Research
Sydney, 2003-2013

GNOME Desktop
Project Lead – Java Bindings
Worldwide, 2006-2011

Upoc, Inc
Director of Operations
New York, 2000-2002

ShadNet Online Community
Co-Founder & Technical Architect
Toronto, 1996-1999

Canadian Military
Infantry Officer
Canada and Europe, 1991-2000

Digital Equipment Corporation
Systems Administrator
Toronto, summer 1990

Directorships

Canadian Centre for Creative Technology
Member, Board of Directors
1996-2006

Linux Australia, Inc
Secretary, Managing Committee
2003-2005

Australian Unix, Linux, and Open Source Professionals' Organization
Member, Board of Directors
2003-2004