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Alessandro Vozza

Evangelist, Software Engineer, OSS advocate and trainer

I begin my OSS journey in 1996 when I learned FORTRAN at the chemistry department of the University of Ferrara. I installed my first distro (Slackware 0.9 with kernel 2.2.0) and was love at first sight, I was tasked as being sysadmin for the department and I joined the Ferrara Linux User Group and the Italian Linux Society; we fostered Linux adoption in public sector and I worked to maintain the computational infrastructure of the Chemistry faculty. I never stopped being involved in Open source software and Linux.

After graduation and the completion of the Ph.D. program in Organic chemistry and Spectroscopy (2 papers published in international scientific journals, thesis pending) I steered my career towards IT leveraging my continuous interest and passion. I never looked back, and I feel privileged to do what I truly love and giving back and being part of great communities.

Experience

Linux Foundation Certified Trainer
April 2019 – present

Trained several classes on Kubernetes, Cloud Native tech, Terraform, Azure, GCP.

Cloud Native Computing Foundation Ambassador
May 2018 – present

Technical Evangelist / Principal Software Engineer – Commercial Software Engineering/DX
November 2016 – present

I joined Microsoft as a technical evangelist to have a greater impact on the communities I am involved with and to develop my passions for DevOps, Containers and Cloud technologies. I really embrace the growth mindset and the current course of Microsoft and look forward to a long-lasting career where I can explore more roles and grow in different departments.

Independent contractor freelancing in Cloud, Containers, DevOps and Programmable Infrastructures – Lovelace Engineering B.V. (Owner)
October 2015 – present

I combine years of experience within Open Source, DevOps and Cloud computing to deliver real value to multiple organizations to achieve demonstrable better efficiency, increased agility and lower operational costs by using automation, data science (metrics and alerting) and scalable cloud technologies, with particular emphasis on Kubernetes and Dockers.

Namecheap Inc. – Director of Cloud
October 2015 – November 2016

Building a public cloud infrastructure for one of the largest hosting/registrar entity in U.S.; building a distributed agile team of engineers across the globe for fast incident response and proactive management. Defined business strategy and ROI of the cloud initiative, designed and architected the solution based on open source software defined networking and storage, blended by a scalable, secure and continuously integrated Openstack infrastructure. Ad interim role of Director of DevOps and Head of Security.

Red Hat – Senior Cloud Architect / Openstack Specialist EMEA
April 2014 – October 2015

Selected by the world leader in Open Source to spearhead their effort to promote the adoption of the leading private cloud software, Openstack. Moved to a customer-facing role, evangelizing, consulting, designing, implementing and tuning on-premise clouds for all sort of customers and industries in EMEA (telco's, providers, media, storage and more); successfully deployed dozens of PoC's and production Openstack cluster on Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6 and 7, using cutting-edge technology for networking (SDN/Neutron, Opencontrail, Opendaylight) and storage (Gluster and Ceph). Achieved target goals of wins and customer conversion.

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Spil Games – Tech Lead / Head of Hosting Operations
July 2013 – April 2014

Leading a large team within engineering managing a highly-available, high-performing, scalable fleet of 800+ servers that serve 300+ million MAU and pushes gigabit of traffic. My role is to define strategies, execute them and lead the effort of continuously maintaining and improving our ever-changing infrastructure; open up to a DevOps approach towards developers while maintaining the highest uptime and a stable platform. Up to a third of my time is spent getting my hands dirty and helping my team by leading by example, from troubleshooting Openstack issues to deploying new features and tools (from Elasticsearch to Jenkins to Docker, Puppet, Graphite); designing, installing, configuring, maintaining and expanding our private cloud (now growing by 2 hypervisors a week) and migrating existing workloads into Openstack, thus enabling faster innovation and scalability. Everything I do, it's about being open and transparent, owning what I create and fostering a collaborative culture.

Software Improvement Group – Head of IT Operations
June 2012 – June 2013

Lead a small IT department into a delicate transitional modernization phase; successfully completed several cutting-edge projects (hybrid cloud based on a multi-tenant, multi-node Openstack cluster, security hardening, application performance monitoring, complete automation of server and client's management with auto-provisioning, scaling and auditing, Kanban-style approach and DevOps oriented management of people and resources). Enabled internal innovation and knowledge transfer between IT and business, re-aligned objectives and priorities. Fostered an open culture of collaboration and transparency, motivated my team with fair and steady guidance, result-oriented and stress-resilient.

ID&T - System/Network Admin and Integrator
April 2009 – April 2012

Transitioned and consolidated legacy and loose infrastructure into a modern, resilient, efficient system. Improved business workflows, creative processes by freeing and optimizing resources. Cut costs in half, meanwhile toughening web server and storage infrastructures, applications and loads. Supported business goals and introduced modern and cutting-edge technologies (Cloud, virtualization, monitoring). Strengthened security, reduced liabilities and expenses, improved functionality and enabler of things to happen.

Certifications (updated at https://aka.ms/alvozzabadges):

Google Cloud Certified Professional Architect

Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert

Microsoft Certified: Azure DevOps Engineer Expert

Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Engineer Associate

Microsoft Certified: Azure Security Engineer Associate

Certified Kubernetes Application Developer (ID: CKAD-1800-0031-0100) - March 2018

Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate: Cloud Platform - July 2018

Microsoft Certified Solutions Associate: Linux on Azure - January 2018

Linux Foundation Certified System Administrator (ID: LFCS-1700-001796-0100) - November 2017

Certified Kubernetes Administrator (ID: CKA-1700-0063-0100) - October 2017

Education:

Universiteit van Amsterdam - Doctorandus
November 2004 - March 2009

Set up Beowulf computational cluster and wrote Matlab and OriginPro analysis tools for supporting research purposes in advanced laser spectroscopy. Published scientific papers and completed advanced research on innovative synthetic methods, material technology, catalysis and spectroscopy.