

Kofi Asante

Sr System Engineer @ Verisign

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Summary

Previous	System Engineer @ FAA
Preferred	Sr System Engineer
Location	Potomac, MD, US
Desired Work Settings	No Preference
Willing to Relocate	No
Work Authorization(s):	Authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis.
Security Clearance Info:	US Citizen (for security purposes)
Employment Type	Full-time Contract - Independent Contract - W2 Contract to Hire - Independent Contract to Hire - W2
Total Experience	14 years
Education	Unspecified
Profile Source	Dice
Profile Downloaded	Monday, December 9, 2024

LEGAL LAST NAME: Asante

LEGAL FIRST NAME: Kofi

LOCATION: Maryland (MD)

PHONE:

EMAIL:

STATUS: U.S. Citizen

AVAILABLE: Immediately

EDUCATION

BSc. Electrical and Electronic Engineering – Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Operating Systems

- **Linux:** Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL 6/7/8/9), Oracle Linux (OEL 7/8), CentOS (6/7), Ubuntu (16/17)
- **Windows:** Windows 10/11, Windows Server 2019/2022

Virtualization & Cloud Platforms

- **VMware:** vSphere, vCenter, ESXi, ESX, KVM
- **Cloud:** AWS, OpenStack, VMware vCloud
- **Containers & Orchestration:** Docker, Podman, Kubernetes

Automation & Configuration Management

- **Tools:** Ansible, Puppet, Cockpit
- **Monitoring & Alerting:** Nagios, Splunk, SolarWinds, Dynatrace, Datadog, Tenable, Netcool, Moogsoft, Guardicore

Networking & Security

- **Networking:** DNS, DHCP, NTP, NFS, FTP, LDAP, SSH
- **Web Servers:** Apache, Nginx, Tomcat
- **Security & Hardening:** FirewallD, TCP Wrappers, SELinux, Kerberos, Aspera

Scripting & Programming

- **Languages:** Bash, Python, Ruby

CI/CD & DevOps Tools

- **Tools:** Jenkins, GitLab, GitHub

Database Management

- **Databases:** Oracle, PostgreSQL, MongoDB

Documentation & Collaboration Tools

- **Tools:** Jira, Confluence

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Verisign – Sr. System Engineer / Linux DevOps Engineer

04/2020 – Present

- **Linux Subject Matter Expert (SME):** Serve as the primary owner and SME for Linux OS and assigned applications, providing expert-level support and guidance.
- **Infrastructure Management:** Perform daily operational tasks including Linux systems deployment, upgrades, patch management, monitoring, and incident resolution.
- **Automation and Configuration Management:** Implement Linux automation frameworks using Ansible to standardize and automate configuration management, patching, and system provisioning.
- **Cloud Migration:** Lead the migration of legacy platforms to AWS, ensuring high availability and scalability through the use of automation tools and cloud-native services.
- **Containerization and Orchestration:** Build, deploy, and manage Aspera and Alertus applications within Docker containers. Maintain highly available systems on Kubernetes, managing cluster resources and ensuring service reliability.
- **CI/CD Pipeline Development:** Utilize Jenkins for building CI/CD pipelines, automating deployments, and integrating security rules (e.g., Guardicore) into the deployment process.
- **Virtualization:** Design, integrate, and manage VMware-based solutions, including migration and cloning of virtual RHEL servers using vCenter and OVA templates.
- **Application Deployment:** Deploy and configure Linux-based services, including Apache, MySQL, DNS, and SSL certificates, following best practices and security standards.
- **Storage & File System Management:** Perform storage management, volume management, and partitioning using LVM to ensure optimal performance and resource allocation.
- **Security and Compliance:** Implement security solutions including BeyondTrust access management and other security hardening techniques (SELinux, FirewallD) across the Linux environment.
- **Monitoring and Observability:** Assist in administering monitoring platforms such as SolarWinds and Dynatrace, configuring metrics, alerts, and creating custom dashboards for system performance monitoring.
- **Collaboration and ITIL Practices:** Collaborate with cross-functional teams to deliver critical security projects, ensuring compliance with ITIL change management and InfoSec policies.
- **Documentation and SOPs:** Author deployment plans, upgrade guides, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and system architecture documentation.
- **On-Call Support:** Participate in an on-call rotation to provide 24/7 support for critical infrastructure.

FAA (Concept Solutions) – *System Engineer / Linux Engineer*

12/2019 – 03/2020

- **Linux Systems Installation & Configuration:** Installed and configured Solaris and Red Hat Linux systems, ensuring stable and secure operation in a VMware virtualized environment.
- **VMware Environment Management:** Supported and maintained the FAA's CERT infrastructure, performing tasks such as VM requisition, deployment, patch management, and maintaining hardened Linux platforms.
- **Linux Administration:** Administered Linux guest operating systems, managing disk usage, monitoring security configurations, generating system reports, and auditing server resource utilization.
- **Automation & Scripting:** Automated system processes using **Python** and **Ansible**, including the creation of Ansible playbooks in YAML for server provisioning and configuration. Developed and updated Ops Team runbooks using Python and Bash scripting to streamline operations.
- **System Hardening & Security:** Applied and mitigated security vulnerabilities by implementing hardening practices on Linux platforms. Ensured all systems were protected with up-to-date antivirus clients and signature definitions.
- **Cloud & Virtualization:** Worked with AWS services, including IAM, EC2, VPC, and S3, to manage cloud-based infrastructure. Utilized **VMware vSphere** to provision virtual machines, adjust resources, and restore VMs from snapshots.
- **Configuration Management:** Performed software lifecycle management, tracked software licenses, and ensured compliance with licensing terms. Evaluated and recommended new software for integration into the Linux environment.
- **System Documentation:** Maintained and updated system configurations and documentation, ensuring that all system changes were well-documented for future reference.
- **Collaboration & Policy Review:** Reviewed and provided input on government policies and procedures, offering technical support to internal project managers and technical leads.
- **Build and Testing:** Used **Maven** in the build process and performed automated testing using **Python** and **Selenium** to ensure system reliability and performance.

Verizon Media (YAHOO & AOL) – *Linux Site Reliability Engineer*

11/2018 – 11/2019

- **Linux Systems Management:** Performed monitoring, building, patching, upgrading, and configuration management on Linux systems across on-premises and cloud environments, ensuring high availability and stability of critical services.
- **Cloud Migration & Automation:** Migrated legacy platforms to AWS, managing key services such as IAM, VPC, EC2, S3, CloudWatch, and CloudFormation. Automated

AWS infrastructure using CloudFormation, ensuring efficient resource provisioning and cost management.

- **Encryption & Security:** Implemented encryption keys within Jenkins pipelines and for SSH access. Created, installed, and maintained self-signed and external SSL certificates to secure communication and access.
- **Resource Allocation & Disk Management:** Managed disk partitioning, memory, CPU, and disk access allocation for AIX systems on legacy Yahoo and AOL platforms. Ensured optimal system performance and resource utilization.
- **System Hardening & Patching:** Performed regular system patching, backups, and security hardening by editing SSH configurations and implementing best security practices.
- **Monitoring & Incident Response:** Monitored platform and server performance using tools like Nagios, resolving incidents in real-time. Trained the NOC team to run custom scripts for proactive alert resolution.
- **Hadoop Cluster Management:** Deployed and maintained Hadoop clusters, managed nodes, and monitored cluster performance. Configured NameNode high availability and tracked all running Hadoop jobs to ensure smooth operation of big data applications.
- **Cross-Team Collaboration:** Worked closely with the database, network, business units, and application teams to ensure high availability, performance, and coordination of big data applications and services.
- **Infrastructure as Code (IaC):** Automated infrastructure provisioning and configuration using Ansible and Puppet for AWS environments. Created Ansible playbooks in YAML format and integrated automation tasks into CI/CD pipelines using Jenkins.
- **Shell & Python Scripting:** Developed and maintained Bash scripts for cron jobs and runbooks. Created Python scripts for automation and configuration management, supporting deployment, patching, and orchestration.
- **VMware Virtualization:** Built and managed VMware vSphere environments to provision and manage virtual machines, including VM resource modifications and snapshot restores.
- **Ansible Automation:** Installed Ansible and used it to automate tasks in the AWS/DevOps environment, such as provisioning EC2 instances, configuring network settings, and performing patching and updates.
- **Operational Excellence:** Assessed and improved Verizon Media's cloud IaaS provisioning architecture, recommending best practices based on industry trends and advancements.
- **Documentation & SOPs:** Created detailed documentation and SOPs for the migration of legacy AOL and Yahoo systems to AWS, as well as for Ansible playbooks and automation procedures.
- **Team Leadership & Training:** Supervised the Operations team, trained new users, and set up accounts, ensuring proper onboarding and adherence to change control and problem resolution procedures.

Swiftlearn IT Solutions – *Linux System Administrator*

07/2014 – 10/2018

- **Server Installation & Configuration:** Installed physical and virtual servers (RHEL 6 & 7) using both interactive and kickstart methods. Engineered and built servers on both Ubuntu and RHEL Linux.
- **Virtualization:** Provisioned virtual servers on VMware and ESX platforms using vCloud, ensuring high availability and scalability of virtual environments.
- **Environment Administration:** Administered production, development, and test environments, managing a mix of Windows, Red Hat Linux, and CentOS servers.
- **System Hardening:** Installed and configured Red Hat Linux using kickstart, applying security policies for server hardening based on company standards.
- **Remote Access Configuration:** Installed and configured SSH services for remote clients, ensuring secure remote access.
- **Scripting & Automation:** Developed and edited Bash scripts for automation tasks and scheduled cron jobs. Used Python scripting (YAML) for Ansible automation, improving operational efficiency.
- **Performance Tuning:** Used tools like `top`, `iostat`, `vmstat`, and `ps` for performance analysis and tuning to enhance the performance of various applications and services.
- **Monitoring:** Utilized monitoring tools like Netcool, Amanda, and Cacti to ensure continuous monitoring of server health and performance.
- **User & Permission Management:** Managed user accounts, permissions, and file access across different departments, ensuring secure access control and compliance.
- **VMware Administration:** Installed, configured, and maintained VMware environments, including the setup and configuration of virtual machines on VMware hosts.
- **LAMP Stack Management:** Installed and configured services within the LAMP environment, including Apache and Tomcat web servers.
- **Collaboration & Support:** Worked closely with vendors, operations, and maintenance teams to support Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- **Storage Management:** Created and managed partitions (including LVM and swap), and administered RAID configurations to optimize server storage.
- **File Permissions & Group Management:** Administered file permissions, groups, and ACLs, ensuring proper access control within the organization. Managed tickets using Remedy.
- **Service Configuration:** Configured and maintained essential services such as DNS, NFS, FTP, remote access, and security settings.
- **System Upgrades & Patching:** Performed firmware upgrades, kernel patching, and performance tuning on Unix/Linux systems to maintain system stability and security.

InfoSpan Inc. – *Linux Systems Administrator*

09/2012 – 05/2014

- **Linux VM Administration:** Administered Linux virtual machines, focusing on Red Hat Linux, ensuring stability and resource optimization.
- **Patching & Upgrades:** Applied OS and software patching/upgrades to maintain system security and performance.

- **Firewall & Security:** Configured firewall rules to ensure the security and efficiency of systems and applications. Hardened servers by applying security best practices, including generating SSH authentication keys.
- **System Installation:** Installed, upgraded, and configured Red Hat Linux 4 and 5 using Kickstart and interactive installation methods, ensuring consistent and secure environments.

Hubtel Inc. – *Junior Linux Systems Administrator*

04/2010 – 07/2011

- **Troubleshooting & Support:** Performed day-to-day troubleshooting and maintenance of various Linux servers, ensuring minimal downtime and high availability.
- **Automation & Scripting:** Developed and administered cron jobs and Bash scripts for automation tasks, optimizing routine processes.
- **Backup & Restore:** Utilized NetBackup to perform file-level system restores, ensuring data integrity and availability.
- **User Management:** Managed user and group accounts, including password resets, account creation, locking, unlocking, and removal, ensuring proper access controls.
- **24x7 On-Call Support:** Provided 24x7 on-call support for systems administration, ensuring quick resolution of critical issues.