

Robert Eccleston

Data Centre Infrastructure Consultant

Availability: Negotiable
Clearance: SC, DBS
Location: Cheshire & long distance
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Personal Summary

A multi-skilled data centre infrastructure consultant, with 19 years of comprehensive experience delivering secure and resilient systems, on time and within budget to meet business needs. Possessing a proven ability to successfully deliver highly-available solutions of the highest quality, often in technically complex and challenging environments, to enhance a business's strategy to provide IT resources.

I'm looking for a technically challenging role, where I can utilise my diverse skill set to deliver technical solutions.

Details Of Expertise

Microsoft Azure Cloud Services

- **Azure Active Directory** – Synchronised Microsoft Active Directory credentials for single sign-on with cloud services,
- **Azure Recovery Services** – Deployed MARS for secure off-site backup & disaster recovery of on-premise resources,

Microsoft Windows Server 2016 for Data Centres

- **Active Directory** – Managing approximately 30,000 users in large networks spanning multiple sites,
- **BanchCache** – Deployment of bandwidth-optimization features to enhance performance of centralised resources,
- **DFS** – Implementation of distributed file systems spanning multiple sites with data centre replication for disaster recovery,
- **DHCP & DNS** – Active Directory integrated domain name resolution and IP leasing for end user devices,
- **Failover Clustering** – Implementation of highly resilient resources for core infrastructure and critical end user applications,
- **Group Policies** – Computer & application policies to facilitate the integration of infrastructure resources,
- **KMS** – Key Management Service to manage volume license activation for Microsoft Windows & Office products,
- **Hyper-V** – Deployment and management of virtual servers spanning data centres and multiple remote sites,
- **MBAM** – Management of hard drive encryption for mobile devices via Microsoft BitLocker Administration and Monitoring,
- **PKI** – Implementations of 3-tier private key infrastructure for certificate authentication of secure resources & mobile devices,
- **PowerShell** – Proficient in scripting repetitive tasks to manage and deploy infrastructure resources,
- **RDS** – Deployment of resilient Remote Desktop Services for centralising hosting of RemoteApp's and desktop sessions,
- **RADIUS** – Authenticated of WiFi devices & administration of network equipment via Network Protection Server,
- **WSUS** – Deployment and management of Microsoft updates within large server infrastructures for critical systems,

VMware vSphere 6.5 for Software-Defined Data Center's (SDDC) & Hyper-Converged Storage

- **Authentication** – Role-base access control via Microsoft Active Directory integrate authentication,
- **Automated** – Deployment of Microsoft Windows Server 2016 virtual servers,
- **Clustering** – Implement, deploy & manage many hosts spanning multiple sites,
- **Diagnose** – Faults and performance issue with evidence followed through to resolution,
- **Disaster Recovery** – Solutions by EMC & Veeam to protect virtual resources and system configuration,
- **Hosts** – Deploy, manage and upgrade of ESXi within existing virtual infrastructures spanning multiple sites,
- **Management** – Via PowerShell, SSH, legacy Windows client or vSphere Web Client.
- **Migration** – Of servers from legacy hardware or virtual platforms onto existing virtual platform,
- **Network** – Upgrade, migrate & reconfigure connectivity for management, high-availability, storage or end user connectivity,
- **Policies** – Policy orientated disaster recovery, storage performance & redundancy,
- **SolarWinds** – Integration for alerts and real-time notifications,
- **Storage** – Manage, upgrade & migrate between DAS, SAN, iSCSI or NFS.
- **Upgrade** – vCenter & hosts to latest release,
- **vSAN** – Deployment and migration in 'remote office branch office' or clustered installations,
- **vROPs** – Monitoring trends and identifying faults with real-time notifications,

Veeam Backup & Recovery for VMware & Hyper-V Virtual Infrastructures

- **Automated** – Scheduled backups of core infrastructure resources and critical clinical applications,
- **Designed** – Replacement infrastructure to meet the business's disaster recovery strategy,
- **Develop** – Existing backup solution to enhance the backup strategy,
- **Diagnose** – Faults and failures, resolving through to completion, communicating with confidence,
- **Integration** – With existing VMware and Hyper virtual infrastructure as the primary disaster recovery solution,
- **Reporting** – Created automated daily backup reports, identified and resolved warnings and failures,
- **Storage** – Solution include EMC Data Domain, Dell Disaster Recovery appliances and Windows ReFS file servers,

Data Centre Firewalls, Site to Site, Remote Access, Switching

- **Authentication** – Role-base access control with Microsoft Active Directory single sign-on and two factor authentication,
- **Designed** – Highly available firewall solutions to address network instabilities, vulnerabilities and enhance reliabilities,
- **Diagnosed** – Complex network connectivity & performance issues affecting remote sites and mobile workers,
- **Remote Access** – From end user devices with SSO, 2FA and encryption, securing remote access from public or private Wi-Fi,
- **Segmentation** – Of networks to secure resources and isolate security systems from both internal and external threats,
- **Ubiquiti Unifi** – Large scale network, CCTV and Wi-Fi deployment embracing network segmentation and risk management,

Employment / Experience

Senior Data Centre Infrastructure Consultant – Diagnosed, Implemented & Documented Infrastructures

Bathgate Group: Databax – November 2018 to Present (Contract)

- Diagnosed complex server & network faults affecting the performance and reliability of business critical resources hosted within a secure tier 3 data centre,
- Identified oversights in the design and implementation of numerous data centres technologies contributing to loss of productivity,
- Proposed technical solutions to migrate security threats and vulnerabilities, enhanced infrastructure stability and performance of data centre resources and branch sites,
- Designed and implemented enterprise firewall solutions to mitigate cyber threats and enhance connectivity from branch sites to data centre hosted resources,
- Created detailed technical documentation for proposed solutions, visibility of risks and continued support for both server and network infrastructures,
- Identified, communicated, resolved vulnerabilities and instabilities within a large Ubiquiti Unifi network, CCTV, with segregated Wi-Fi for guest and business networks.
- Deployed Azure Active Directory to synchronised Microsoft Active Directory credentials for single sign-on with cloud hosted services,
- Designed & deployed Microsoft Azure Recovery Services for secure off-site backup & disaster recovery of on-premise resources,

Senior Data Centre Infrastructure Engineer – Designed, Built Data Centre & Branch Site Infrastructures

NHS: Arden & Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit – March 2018 to October 2018 (Contract)

- Designed & implemented Microsoft Windows 2016 Active Directory infrastructures based upon Microsoft best practices and high availability, spanning over 450 sites,
- Maintained and deployed hundreds of Microsoft Windows 2016 Core servers upon Nutanix's hyper-converged virtual compute and storage infrastructure,
- Built & deployed hundreds of Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2016 Core hosts and guests to scale-out data centre resources to remote branch sites,
- Designed & implemented a highly scalable & site aware Distributed File System with data centre replication & branch site deduplication,
- Implement Windows failover clusters upon Nutanix hyper-converged storage and migrated many tens of terabytes from legacy storage appliances,

Senior Infrastructure Engineer – Upgraded VMware Infrastructure to 6.5 & Deployed VSAN Clusters.

GA Pet Food Partners: Global Pet Food Manufacturer – November 2017 to February 2018 (Contract)

- Upgraded a physical VMware vCenter 6.0 server to VMware's vCenter 6.5 virtual appliance with high availability.
- Upgraded numerous clusters of ESXi hosts from 6.0 to 6.5, identified and resolved legacy issues.
- Deployed remote office / branch office (ROBO) clusters upon remote sites and implemented Veeam disaster recovery solution to head office.
- Maintained & expanded existing Veeam backup infrastructure to efficiently backup remote clusters and reduce load on site-to-site links.
- Upgraded data centre network infrastructure, consolidated existing virtual distributed switches and port groups with multiple highly-available 10Gbps interfaces.
- Designed & implemented a Milestone xProtect Professional IP security surveillance system to monitor warehouses, production-lines and immediate area.
- Configured and deployed Cisco / Allied Telesis managed switches, diagnosed connectivity issues and made VLAN changes.
- Maintained, identified & resolved issues within Microsoft Active Directory, DHCP & DNS services.
- Enhanced server and workstation security via group policies and implemented automated deployment of Microsoft security updates via WSUS

Senior Server Engineer – Maintained VMware Data Centre, Design & Implement Veeam Infrastructure.

NHS: Central Manchester University Hospital Foundation Trust – January 2017 to September 2017 (Contract)

- Gained in-depth knowledge and experience of VMware vCenter 6.5, centrally managing & maintaining in excesses of 900 virtual servers and 48 hosts.
- Frequent tasks included root cause analysis of virtual infrastructure performance issues, documenting in-depth procedures to maintaining critical care systems.
- Designed a disaster recovery strategy to protect clinical data within strict guidelines, exceeding regulatory retention periods with the defined resources.
- Gained experience designing and implementing an EMC DataDomain storage appliance & Veeam 9.5 backup infrastructure, protecting trust wide clinical systems.
- Deployed & configured VMware vRealize Operations Manager 6.5 to monitor hosts and guests within the VMware virtual infrastructure
- Co-ordinated with third party providers to provision & migrate clinical systems, within stringent time frames to enhance patient care.
- Maintained Microsoft Exchange clusters, in an active / replica configuration, hosting over 30,000 mailboxes for Windows, web & mobile devices.
- Maintained and managed Microsoft Active Directory services, containing approximately 25,000 users / workstations and over a thousand servers.

Server Engineer – Maintained VMware Data Centre & Veeam Backup Infrastructures.

NHS: Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospital Trust – April 2016 to December 2016 (Contract)

- Gained in-depth knowledge and experience of VMware vCenter 6.0, centrally managing & maintaining approximately 450 virtual servers and Dell Compellent SAN.
- Deployed & configured VMware vRealize Operations Manager 6.2 to monitor hosts and guests within the VMware virtual infrastructure. Created custom symptoms and definitions to produce warnings for growing trends which could potentially deplete compute or storage resources. Responsible for diagnosing & resolving issues.
- Designed and implemented a solution to migrate servers from Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2, VMware 4.1 and legacy physical servers to VMware 6.0.
- Integrated EMC Avamar 7.2 disaster recovery into the VMware 6 infrastructure. This included registering VMware vCenter within the EMC Avamar, deploying and configuring multiple EMC virtual proxies, creating backup jobs & schedules. Responsibilities included senior point of escalation and troubleshooting backup failures.
- Created & managed databases running on Microsoft SQL clusters and instances of Oracle MySQL. Created strategies to backup MySQL instances via Veeam..
- Gained in-depth experience in administering Microsoft Active Directory & Exchanges objects via PowerShell, managing Lync 2010, Symantec Bright Mail & Enterprise.

Server Engineer – Migration of Legacy Systems into a Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2012 R2 Data Centre.

NHS: Greater Manchester Commissioning Support Unit – August 2015 to April 2016 (Contract)

- Deployment of Microsoft Hyper-V hosts and Windows Server 2012 virtual servers across hundreds of sites spanning Greater Manchester.
- Migration of active directory and SQL databases from legacy 2003 to regional 2012 domain. Disaster recovery for branch sites provided through configured of Hyper-V replication to central data centre.

3rd Line Support – Support of Microsoft Windows & Exchange server infrastructure across multiple sites.

NHS: Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospital Trust – January 2015 to August 2015 (Contract)

Server Engineer – Microsoft Windows Server infrastructure audit spanning multiple AD domains and sites.

NHS: North West Commissioning Support Unit – September 2014 to December 2014 (Contract)

Server Engineer – Deployment of medical Digital Picture Archive Computer System

FujiFilm UK Limited – October 2012 to August 2014 (Permanent)

Server Engineer – Migration to Cloud Hosted Solution from legacy on premises infrastructure

CSH Bidco Limited – August 2012 to October 2012 – (Permanent)

3rd Line Support – Support of Microsoft Windows & Exchange Infrastructures

IRIS Software Group Limited – March 2008 to June 2012 (Permanent)

3rd Line Support – Support of multi-site Microsoft Windows Infrastructure

A.A.K Foods – February 2008 to March 2008 (Contract)

2nd Line Support – Support of on premises Microsoft Small Business Server Infrastructures

Micro Computer World – January 2007 to December 2007 (Permanent)

Network Engineer – Installation of broadband services within the hospitality industry

Western Telecom – February 2006 to January 2007 (Permanent)

Network Engineer – Installation of Cisco solutions within the education & health sectors

Stoneleigh Consultancy Limited – February 2005 to February 2006 (Permanent)

2st Line Support – Support of on premises Microsoft Small Business Server infrastructures

Syan Limited – August 2003 to February 2005 (Permanent)

2st Line Support – Support of large Microsoft Active Directory infrastructure

Marches School & Technology College – February 2003 to August 2003 (Permanent)

Project Engineer – Deployment of servers upon remote sites for the financial industry

Lantec UK Limited – August 2001 to August 2002 (Permanent)