

Kimball Johnson

Curriculum Vitae

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Education *BSc II(ii)(honours) Computer Science, 2002- 2005*
Lancaster University

Employment

04/2014-date Developer Shadowcat Systems Lancaster, Lancashire
05/2013-03/2014 Senior Systems Engineer
One Connect Limited
Preston, Lancashire
02/2011-04/2013 Systems Developer
Lancashire County Council/One Connect Limited
Preston, Lancashire
07/2007-02/2011 Systems Developer
Lancaster University Network Systems Ltd (LUNS)
Lancaster, Lancashire
09/2005-07/2007 Software Developer
Auto Execution, Research and Development, Bloomberg LP, London
07/2005-09/2005 Systems Developer
Lancaster University Network Systems Ltd (LUNS)
Lancaster, Lancashire
07/2004-09/2004 Software Developer Internship
Trading Systems, Research and Development, Bloomberg LP, London
05/2004-06/2005 Support Assistant
Lancaster University (Term Time)
04/2002-09/2002 Audio Visual Technician
University of York

Technical Skills

C + +, C, Java, Perl, Ruby, PHP
Chef, Vagrant, Postgresql, MySQL
Agile, SCRUM, JUnit, ITIL, PRINCE2
TCP/IP, Linux, Windows

Experience

Shadowcat Systems Limited

On contract to Chronotrack Systems, Evansville, IN, USA

Chronotrack Systems is a race timing company for marathons and triathlons and similar events, they have a number of parts, from providing the hardware to chip-time events, and online event booking and scoring system, and a social network for athletes.

I was brought on board into the Systems Administration Team to provide cover for European hours, and to be part of the effort to improve and modernise the infrastructure. All the infrastructure ran on Amazon Webservices but there was very little in the way of configuration management. I assisted in bringing more structure to the systems, and took the lead on developing a new Continuous Integration System for the developers, to improve the existing time to starting tests from over an hour, to approximately 5 minutes.

I was also key in the redesign of the developer database system, moving from a system where by the production database was dumped daily and then restored from fresh onto the developer database, where the developers could access the daily snapshot, to a much faster, and less disk intensive system where the database is continuously replicated from production, and point in time snap shots can be taken on demand, and are automatically taken every few hours.

At Chronotrack we employed a number of agile methodologies, including KanBan and SCRUM.

Lancashire County Council/One Connect Limited One Connect Limited (OCL) is a Strategic Partnership between BT and Lancashire County Council. In 2011 the contract from LUNS was in-sourced, and I was TUPEd and seconded into OCL.

At OCL I am part of the Data Centre Infrastructure team, responsible for all the Unix and Linux systems, the virtual machine infrastructure and the network storage infrastructure. Since moving from LUNS I have driven a project to bring configuration management into the systems, as the systems at LUNS were heavily dependent upon it. The system in use is Opscode Chef. One of my main roles has been leading the roll-out of Chef across the entirety of the systems at the council. We have started with the systems in the education section, initially focusing on ensuring that users are consistent on all systems, and that we can quickly remove accounts for staff that leave. In addition, I have been tasked with writing and implementing policy for all new systems that are built, focusing on Linux based systems, in order to make it easier for new and existing staff to understand the setups. I have also been assisting in the training of the other members of the team in using Chef, and in writing cookbooks for it.

As a result of the transfer from LUNS we also took on a number of the systems that were in use there. I have retained primary responsibility for the systems listed below, with the exception of the Cumbrian Shared Hosting which remained in the control of LUNS. As we also took on the Moodle VLE environment, which is used by approximately 250,000 pupils, I have also taken over the infrastructure management of that, and have been the primary technical designer in the project to refresh the platform, and bring it up to the latest version. This has involved working with other teams in web-services, networking and project management, as well as the senior management team and external suppliers.

In my more recent role as Senior Systems Engineer, I report directly to the Platform Architect for Storage and Unix based systems, and I am responsible for all the new infrastructure that we are tasked to build by the project design team. This in practice includes early involvement with the design team to ensure the best solution is produced.

LUNS

LUNS's primary business was a contract with the Cumbria and Lancashire Education Online (CLEO) Regional Broadband Consortium. This contract was to provide all of the network systems, and a large proportion of the central computer systems for the schools in the two counties. Additionally they had

a separate contract with Cumbria County Council to provide further central software services for Cumbrian schools. All projects were managed using PRINCE2 and service was managed under the ITIL v3 Best Practices.

- Network Edge Device

One of my main projects at LUNS was the ongoing development of the Network Edge Device that is installed into every school in the two counties. This device, based on Debian GNU/Linux, is for local web caching, filtering and content provision. It is designed to be centrally managed, such that it can recover from almost any corruption or configuration problems simply with a reboot. I have been involved with all aspects of this project, particularly with the database system, and stored procedures. Another major aspect of this project has been integration of the web proxy authentication with Microsoft Active Directory, initially through NTLM, and most recently Kerberos.

- Dashboard Management system

As part of the NED project described above, there was need for a central web based management system. To this end we designed a modular PHP5 class based framework, and a hierarchical data structure. I was greatly involved in this system, and wholly responsible for the database development. This was developed in PostgreSQL with PL/Perl stored procedures.

- Video Conferencing

CLEO provide a video conferencing service to schools and museums in both counties, based on the GnuGK gatekeeper software. I have been the lead on this service since I started at LUNS full time, and have been responsible for a migration of the management and authentication system from the old, hard to manage system, to integrate with the dashboard configuration system, used by the NED project.

- Cumbrian Shared Hosting

Another major project was the re-development of the Cumbrian schools shared hosting solution. I was the project lead for this, organising the work for myself and my colleagues to produce a new secure hosting solution for the schools. I designed a solution that takes advantage of separation of concerns with Linux Virtual Servers, and by employing various security features to help prevent spread of any attacks or exploits from one site to another.

Bloomberg

- E-Bond Trading Platform

After the 10 week training class for the full time position, I became part of the Auto Execution applications development team, initially working on the E-Bond electronic trading platform. I quickly took over as the main support contact for the back end server programs running the application, and additionally developed many new features as the project phases continued. This was developed in C and C++, and GTK for the User Interface. This low latency real-time system was in use at the time as the canonical trading platform for many emerging bond markets.

- T-Zero Integration

The next major project I worked on was integration with the T-Zero Credit Default Swap trade reporting system. For this greenfield project I designed the back-end multi-threaded server application from scratch to integrate with their Java Enterprise application server. As this systems was developed in Java it provided a great challenge integrating new technologies with the dated existing Bloomberg Systems.

Extracurricular

FLOSS UK

Since 2008 I have been a member of FLOSS UK (then known as UKUUG) and attended a number of conferences organised by them. In September 2010 I was elected onto the council, and then took over the running of the spring conference in 2012. I was then elected as Chairman of FLOSS UK in September 2012 and I continue to take the primary role in running the conference events.

Hackspaces

I am a on the board of HacMan Manchester, acting as their treasurer. I have a keen interest in electronics, especially embedded development. Currently one of the other members of HacMan and I are building an automated model railway shunting puzzle solver. In the spirit of hack spaces, I also make efforts to help other members that have less experience.