

John David Pratt

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Research Computing | Cloud Computing | Devops

- **Experienced IT Leader with 25 years of Systems Support;** experienced in design, development and implementation of various IT systems, valued team member in ODU IT department, trusted IT liaison amongst University staff and researchers
- **Executive Director, Research and Cloud Computing Group;** respected manager to 9 Engineers, organized and efficient project and resource tracking, forward thinking system architecture and design
- **Excellent Communicator;** consistently provide appropriate level of communication to project stakeholders, business owners and University project resources, foster relationships with Server Support team, IT groups and University staff

Professional Experience & Timeline

Executive Director Research and Cloud Computing

April 2022 - Present

- Provide leadership and strategic direction for research computing at the University
- Partner with leadership and research faculty in the development of grants and initiatives
- Assist faculty, students and researchers in their use of research computing and cloud resources

Manager Research and Cloud Computing

November 2019 - April 2022

- Support scientific endeavors at the University in the use of research computing resources
- Lead team of devops engineers advancing new technologies such as Kubernetes, Openstack, containers and cloud.
- Lead team of engineers in operational support of two 6000 core high performance computing clusters in addition to several research computing environments.

Key Projects & Accomplishments:

- Project manager, leading implementation of regulated research environment for Virginia regional partnership (HRBRC).
- Develop a multi-year strategy for research computing at ODU.
- Lead team of engineers in support of research computing enterprise
 - High performance computing clusters
 - Advanced AI workloads
 - Research training
 - Research computing in the cloud
- Lead team of engineers in automation of enterprise environment using standard devops toolsets including:
 - Service Now integration to automate build of servers
 - Service Now integration to automate decommissioning of servers
 - Anomaly detection with automated remediation
- Lead implementation of AWS cloud environment to support the future of University enterprise and research cloud workloads.

Manager Systems Engineering and Design

January 2013 – November 2019

- Addition of high performance computing environment (HPC) to design and manage. With the addition of two Systems Engineers, we have successfully implemented a computational cluster for University staff and researchers to utilize for analytical research.
- Forged numerous relationships with key University researchers while implementing the HPC cluster. These relationships serve to be a valuable force in the longevity of the HPC environment.
- Worked with the HPC Systems Engineers and several University staff to plan and coordinate “HPC Day” at ODU to explain and encourage additional staff to utilize the HPC cluster.
- Supervise the daily cluster operations to ensure that environments are running efficiently and mediate any issues that are reported by University researchers.

Manager of Server Support Group

June 2011 – January 2013

- As manager of the Server Support Group, I managed 10 engineers and the enterprise server infrastructure comprised of over 300 servers and storage systems.
- Experience managing complex projects, consisting of requirements gathering, technical analysis, procurement of assets, implementation of systems and training of end users if needed.
- Track and maintain time and task progression for my staff and have weekly meetings with each team member to gather project updates. Provide regular updates to my supervisor and the project stakeholders throughout the project lifecycle.
- Routinely work with University staff and business owners to monitor department applications. We often work together to perform upgrades and work with third party vendors to resolve application issues.

Key Projects & Accomplishments:

- Planned and migrated hardware based server environment to VMWARE cluster
- Created processes for quarterly patching of Redhat Linux and Windows systems to ensure a more secure environment
- Spearheaded the implementation of a university-wide enterprise backup system
- Developed a comprehensive Disaster Recovery (DR) strategy and implementation plan for new DR site

Senior Systems Engineer

May 2000 – June 2011

- As a Senior Systems Engineer, I served as team lead on numerous server implementation projects. I worked with the business owners to design, analyze and implement new server(s) systems and relating software.
- I maintained server security standards and implemented regular updates/patches. I developed and delivered training documents to end users as needed.
- I worked with various hardware and software vendors/consultants to design and implement project deliverables.
- In order to gain managerial experience, I became the team lead and mentor for the Linux Server Support Group. I facilitated weekly meetings to gather project updates and provide feedback on their performance.
- Maintained excellent organizational and time management skills.

Key Projects & Accomplishments:

- Served as primary server lead in campus-wide migration from Lotus Notes email system to Microsoft Exchange 2007
- Configured centralized redundant ldap authentication system

- o Served as primary server lead in implementation of Tivoli Storage Manager backup system

Technical Skills Summary

Research Computing	Job schedulers including SLURM, extensive knowledge of cluster management software, Knowledge of infiniband and Ethernet network design in an HPC environment, Extensive experience with storage system design and operation including long-term storage, scratch storage and Lustre.
Devops	Extensive experience with devops toolsets including git and Jenkins. Extensive experience with configuration management tools including Terraform, Ansible and Cloudformation.
Cloud Services	Experience with cloud services including AWS and Azure. Experience with design and architecture of enterprise cloud environments.
Authentication	Ldap, Kerberos, Active Directory
Windows	Active Directory Administration, Group Policy, Server 2008, Server 2003, IIS, Microsoft Clustering, Security Updates/Patches
Linux	Ubuntu, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, Apache, OpenLDAP, OpenDS
Storage Systems	Extensive experience with both block and file storage systems. This includes EMC VNX and Isilon, Netapp and Data Domain. Experience with NFS, CIFS, fiber channel and iSCSI. Management of fiber channel switches and configuration of zones and devices. Configuration of tape libraries and drives.
Programming	JAVA, Python, LDAP, Extensive experience with scripting languages including VBScript, Perl, Powershell. Experience with Infrastructure as code using Ansible.

Education

Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, Old Dominion University, 1999

Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate, 2021