Wesley Jones

Cedar Falls, IA - wes@iamwpj.com

Education

Iowa State University

Ames - 2022 to 2025: M.S. Cybersecurity

University of Northern Iowa

Cedar Falls - 2010 to 2015: B.A. History

Work History

University of Northern Iowa

Senior Systems Administrator - Cedar Falls - 2022 to Present

As a senior, I work to educate coworkers and establish long-term goals with my team, alongside previous responsibilities.

Systems and Network Administrator - Cedar Falls - 2016 to 2022

I focus on automation to support a variety of servers and clusters. I interact with a broad range of technologies and resources to help provide reliable IT infrastructure services at UNI.

Aces

IT Client Support - Cedar Falls - 2015 to 2016

Direct client support for desktops and server administration for a healthcare provider. Through this role I was exposed to a large swath of routine business and healthcare specific software. I developed the skills necessary to continue my career by working with networking and server technologies such as DHCP, DNS, firewalls, and vSphere management.

Experience

- **Cross-team communication.** In my first few years at University of Northern Iowa, I worked with both the system administrator team and network teams. I used the tools from one team to help the other -- managing servers with Puppet, securing web access with certificates, creating a development workflow using GitLab, and building a more efficient network access control system.
- **Discover and improve.** A key strength I have developed over the years has been the ability to discover the "ins and outs" of a system or software. When IT was relied on to take over a failing HPC cluster, I was able to figure out how to access, secure, and administer the aging system with minimal interruption for the few users. I have since continued to incrementally improve the HPC offering by building an in-house solution when the previous one failed, finally, helping to plan and implement a new cluster in 2022.
- **Ensuring longevity of services.** Services should be maintainable over time, this requires proper planning to assess needs of a project, constant re-evalution during the implementation and early years, and up-to-date documentation and monitoring. I have worked on a variety of large scale projects that require accounting for a diverse set of goals. I have worked to ensure that these projects are successful both on launch, but maintainable and continue to be extend past their initial availability.

Acknowledgments and Continuing Education

- Throughput Computing; HPC Conference Madison, WI - 2023
- Panther First award; Service Hub Implementation (Jira Service Desk) - 2019
- PCI Certified - 2018 to present
- Avaya Aura Certification - 2018
- HIPAA Certification - 2015 and 2016

Specific Skills

- **Languages:** Bash, Python
- **Configuration Management:** Puppet
- **Web:** Apache, MySQL, Redis, PHP/HTML/CSS/JS, WordPress
- **Authentication:** integrating into login systems: LDAP, Active Directory, SAML
- **Systems:** Linux, vSphere, Docker
- **Workflow:** GitLab CI, Rundeck, Jira
- **Logging, Alerting, & Metrics:** rsyslog, ELK (and OpenSearch, etc), Icinga, PagerDuty, Prometheus, Grafana

Special Projects

- **Centralized logging:** I took over a failing single node log search server (Graylog) and migrated to a multi-node Elasticsearch, Logstash, and Kibana cluster. I maintained an evaluation deployment of that service for several years as it gained support and traction for the value offered. In January 2022, I deployed OpenSearch as a *near production* centralized log cluster.
- **Network device monitoring automation:** Create a system to automate, import, and expand our service monitoring of network devices. The automation was needed to replace a cumbersome manual process that was not being completed effectively. I also expanded the service to enable network engineers to develop custom monitors and use a CI workflow to activate them.
- **Web learning application:** I maintained a custom application that allows instructors to teach classes about WordPress, SEO, MySQL databases, and web development for two years before beginning a full rebuild to support Python 3. I built a new backend layer and adapted the PHP web frontend to be more secure and have an updated look. The backend uses Redis for user caching and task scheduling and has a custom API to interface with directly as well as be the connection to the frontend. I also integrated the frontend login to the campus solution.