Issue Resolution and Root Cause Analysis

Prepared by: Leo D. Dorsey

Objective

Resolve a recurring system failure affecting operations, identify the root cause, and prevent future occurrences through permanent corrective actions.

Tools & Methods

Tools Used: Syslog, journalctl, Windows Event Viewer, Splunk, Excel

Methods: 5 Whys, Fishbone Diagram, RCA Templates

Communication: Ticketing System, Stakeholder Interviews, Post-Mortem Documentation

Implementation Steps

- 1. Logged and categorized recurring incidents in the helpdesk system
- 2. Analyzed server logs to identify error patterns and correlations
- 3. Interviewed sysadmins and end-users to gather context and surface behavioral clues
- 4. Applied the 5 Whys methodology to identify the misconfigured scheduled task
- 5. Created and tested a long-term remediation plan with rollback safety
- 6. Documented the root cause analysis and integrated the fix into SOP documentation

Results / Findings

- Root cause traced to a legacy script running with outdated permissions
- Resolved the issue, leading to a 70% reduction in helpdesk tickets
- Improved system reliability and incident response process
- Developed a repeatable RCA template for internal IT team use

Conclusion

This project demonstrated the importance of deep investigation and structured problem-solving. It improved operational reliability and created long-term value through documentation and proactive

