


Rizvi Rahim

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PROFILE

Red Hat Certified Architect and AWS Associate Solutions Architect with over 8 years of experience in designing and implementing enterprise IT solutions, with a passion for all things Linux for over a decade.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MelbourneIT, Melbourne, Australia

Senior Systems Engineer

June 2016 – current

Melbourne IT helps organisations of all sizes to successfully do business online. Customers range from small businesses to Fortune 500 companies and internationally recognised government organisations.

In addition to being responsible for hundreds of Linux servers, projects included:

- NetRegistry.com.au website – Solely responsible for re-architecting the public front of NetRegistry, which was previously hosted on their shared hosting platform, on to an AutoScaled AWS setup behind a CloudFront/WAF distribution, all set up with infrastructure-as-code (CloudFormation, Lambda, Packer and Ansible), and CI/CD with Jenkins & CodeDeploy.
The setup was designed to be highly available across available zones, as well have Route 53 health checks to failover to a static version of the site hosted in S3 if ever needed.
- US to Australia datacenter migration – Migrated several Linux machines from the US to their Brisbane datacenter. Despite taking on the workload of two people (after a team member left midway), the project was finished on schedule.
- Solaris to Linux migrations – Moved several custom applications, mainly written in Java, from Solaris 9 to CentOS Linux with Puppet, during a project to deprecate all Solaris servers.
- Suggested and currently tasked with a project to migrate their single-instance Docker containers to an Amazon ECS cluster for their shopping cart infrastructure.

Integra Technologies, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Senior Systems Architect

February 2010 – November 2015

Systems Architect

March 2009 – February 2010

Systems Engineer

July 2008 – March 2009

Integra Technologies is a Red Hat Advanced Partner that focuses on Linux based solutions for enterprises in the UAE and elsewhere in the Middle East. It was awarded the Service Delivery Award during a Red Hat Partner Road Tour in Egypt, 2012.

Responsibilities included:

- Designing and leading the implementation of Linux centric solutions for our clients.
- Automate tasks for our client's infrastructure using configuration management and scripts.
- Researching, testing and often benchmarking available open source and other solutions to assess whether they are ready to meet the demands of our enterprise customers.
- Ensuring that the technical support team responded to customer issues promptly and accurately, and handling complex T3 support cases directly.

Worked on the architecture, design and implementation of all of our largest customers, including:

- Dubai International Airport, Terminal 3 – A **clustered Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5** DHCP/DNS setup that replaced a Windows Server setup, with onsite written scripts to migrate overnight, after Windows was unable to handle the load of thousands of clients spread across 500 VLANs. An almost identical setup (albeit on RHEL 6) was implemented at the Al Maktoum International Airport.
- Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University – Replaced Ubuntu on their critical e-learning platform with Red Hat Enterprise Linux servers with **clustered storage** (GFS2), with servers spread across bare metal as well as virtual machines. Incorporated **memcached**, and designed improvements in the code that decreased the dashboard page load time by several seconds, and **improved the login time by 57%** on the same hardware; with drastically improved security.
- American University of Sharjah – Suggested and overseen the implementation of Satellite and **Puppet** to manage their Red Hat servers, and directly implemented a heavily customized Spacewalk server to handle updates for their Ubuntu servers, with several custom written **Python scripts** to convert Ubuntu USNs to Spacewalk Erratas.
- Etisalat (UAE's largest ISP) – Implemented over a dozen Linux clusters for their various Oracle setups on both bare metal and virtual machines, and architected the platform for a large IVR project involving **automated deployments** of over 70 Linux servers across two sites.
- Axiom Telecom – Migrated a SuSE Linux based mail server (handling over 4000 users and over 650 retail locations) to a Red Hat Enterprise Linux backed multi-server Zimbra setup hosted on their VMware infrastructure; and wrote Python scripts for Zimbra integration with their Active Directory setup. Also secured and maintained their **LAMP** retail site.
- Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange – Installed and customized several Red Hat Linux 6 servers on Cisco blades for the xStream trading system and IBM Informix database.
- And numerous other customers such as GlaxoSmithKline, Red Tag, Emirates Identity Authority (clustered Samba storage servers), Qatar's Ministry of Information (PKI infrastructure), UAE's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, United Bank Limited, Omantel, Sharjah Insurance, Dubai's Road and Transport Authority, and more.
- Set up cost effective highly available cloud setups and disaster recovery solutions using **Amazon Web Services/AWS** for various clients.
- Suggested and implemented several internal projects; such as a redundant **Nagios/Icinga** server, an internal **git** server, a heavily secured **Salt configuration management** server, Feng for internal documentation, etc.

SKILLS

- Extremely adept on the Linux operating system, having used Linux personally since 2002.
- Paranoid about server security, with good hardening practices on every project.
- Production experience in many AWS technologies like Lambda, S3, RDS, ElasticCache, CloudFront, Route 53, CodeDeploy, CloudWatch, CloudFormation (JSON & YAML), Elastic Container Service and WAF.
- Knowledge of a wide variety of open source applications, including but not limited to:
 - Linux High Availability & Clustering
 - Ansible, Salt and Puppet
 - Satellite/Spacewalk
 - ElasticSearch
 - Docker
 - Nagios/Icinga monitoring
- And scripting/programming languages such as:
 - BASH – written hundreds of non-trivial scripts for various situations.
 - Python – for log parsing, general automation, as well as writing a [job application site](#).
 - PHP – simple web interfaces for scripts, as well as debugging site performance issues.

CERTIFICATIONS AND RESULTS

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| • AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate – 90% | Jun 3, 2016 |
| • AWS Certified SysOps Administrator– Associate – 90% | Nov 4, 2016 |
| • Red Hat Certified Architect Level II (111-112-306) | Jan 14, 2016 |
| ◦ Certified System Administrator in Red Hat OpenStack – 87% | Feb 9, 2016 |
| ◦ Certificate of Expertise in Hybrid Cloud Storage – 100% | Jan 14, 2016 |
| ◦ Certificate of Expertise in Server Hardening – 88% | Dec 29, 2015 |
| ◦ Certificate of Expertise in Clustering & Storage – 97% | Nov 01, 2014 |
| ◦ Certified Virtualization Administrator – 92% | Nov 27, 2013 |
| ◦ Certified JBoss Administrator – 93% | Sep 12, 2013 |
| ◦ Red Hat Certified Engineer – 100% | Jun 30, 2011 |
| ◦ Red Hat Certified System Administrator – 100% | Jun 30, 2011 |
| • International English Language Testing System (IELTS) – 9/9 | Oct 12, 2013 |

EDUCATION

- Graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Wollongong in Dubai on January 2008, with Distinction.
- Earned a place in the Dean's Merit List of Academic Excellence thrice in a row. This is an annual list made up of students who achieved grades in the top 5 percent in their faculty in all University of Wollongong campuses globally.