Reed McFadden

TS/SCI • linkedin.com/in/reed-mcfadden • github.com/reedmcfadden • reedmcfadden.github.io/resume

Summary

RHCE-certified Linux Engineer with TS/SCI clearance, specializing in secure RHEL enterprise environments, Linux automation, DISA STIG compliance, and classified infrastructure operations. Experienced with Ansible, Satellite/IDM, SELinux policy management, enclave patching workflows, and virtualization platforms. Focused on strengthening mission-critical systems through hardening, configuration automation, and reliable RHEL lifecycle management.

Technical Skills

- RHCE, RHCSA, Security+, Linux+, AWS Cloud Practitioner
- Linux (RHEL, Rocky), virtualization (vSphere, ESXi, KVM, Proxmox), containers (Docker, Podman)
- Infrastructure-as-Code: Ansible, Terraform, YAML, Git, Bash, Perl
- CI/CD: Understanding of Git-based workflows, pipeline concepts, and automated testing integration
- AWS (EC2, IAM, S3 basics; foundational cloud familiarity)
- Enclave Operations: classified/unclassified RHEL environments, patch baselines, compliance reporting, secure change control
- Security & Compliance: DISA STIGs, SCAP, ACAS/Nessus, SELinux (MLS/RBAC), PKI, system hardening, audit and compliance automation
- Observability: Grafana, Loki, Promtail, Telegraf, InfluxDB
- RHEL Platform Tools: Red Hat Satellite, IDM/FreeIPA, Insights, image building, kickstart/pxe provisioning

Experience

Linux Systems and Integration Engineer
September 2025 – Present
General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS)

- Configured and validated RHEL-based thick-client workstations according to program baselines and security requirements.
- Assisted with racking, cabling, and initial configuration of lab servers, network switches, and storage equipment for classified test environments.
- Created, updated, and peer-reviewed technical documentation, installation procedures, and configuration guides to ensure repeatable Linux system builds.
- Supported ESXi host patching and version upgrades during scheduled maintenance cycles.
- Provided hands-on Linux support for integration and test teams, including troubleshooting workstation issues, updating configuration files, and supporting test execution.
- Participated in test automation planning sessions, contributing Linux requirements and validation criteria even though automation efforts were not fully adopted by the team.

Principal Systems Administrator
March 2025 - June 2025
BAE Systems

- Coordinated team workflows and reporting, ensuring continuous delivery of infrastructure tasks during team lead absence.
- Automated the application of quarterly STIG changes across 50 RHEL 8 systems using Ansible, significantly enhancing security posture and reducing compliance time by 80%.
- Updated fapolicyd trust and whitelisting policies to enforce secure application execution on hardened RHEL workstations.
- Implemented SELinux RBAC mappings to enforce identity boundaries and support Kerberos authentication.
- Resolved ACAS/Nessus scan failures and coordinated remediation actions to maintain RHEL STIG compliance across 50+ systems.
- Automated Linux patching workflows using Ansible and Satellite to enforce configuration drift control.
- Mentored junior Linux administrators, providing guidance and resolving technical blockers to maintain team productivity.
- Administered Red Hat Satellite and IDM for patch baselining, certificate/identity access, and configuration drift enforcement.

Linux Administrator
September 2024 - February 2025
Stratascorp

- Performed DISA STIG scanning, remediation, and automated hardening of RHEL 8 systems

across DoD classified and unclassified enclaves.
- Synchronized RHEL 8 package updates across classified environments to maintain system compliance.
- Maintained ACAS/Nessus infrastructure and ensured continuous vulnerability compliance across mission systems.
- Diagnosed and restored scanning platform service disruptions to maintain vulnerability assessment uptime.
- Developed standardized automation scripts and scheduled jobs to reduce operational toil and streamline maintenance workflows.
- Helped with running stig evaluations on multiple servers on classified and unclassified networks and implemented and scripted remediations for automation.
- Ensured availability of compliance and scanning services by maintaining plugin, service, and update workflows.
- Improved system reliability by resolving enterprise NTP drift and implementing automated time-sync enforcement scripts.
- Performed normal linux server maintenance, including package updates, downtime resolution, and system hardening.

Software Engineer II
August 2022 - March 2024
Assured Information Security (AIS)

- Diagnosed and resolved hardware-integration, kernel, and system-level issues in hardened Linux environments.
- Completed and booted into Linux From Scratch (LFS) as part of an onboarding challenge.
- Automated secure log offloading pipelines (Go/Python) for hardened RHEL-based endpoints into centralized logging infrastructure.
- Coded sections of a desktop application with the backend in Rust, and the frontend in React JavaScript.
- Diagnosed and resolved virtualization and kernel-level issues on hardened Linux systems.
- Built reproducible RHEL-based system images using Yocto/BitBake and controlled, containerized build workflows.
- Automated GRUB bootloader configuration, filesystem validation, and recovery workflows via Perl scripting.

Computer Scientist
July 2020 - August 2022
United States Air Force

- Diagnosed and resolved mission-system data processing issues in secure Air Force environments.
- Implemented updated communication logic for secure aviation software systems integrating with modern radio hardware.
- Built automated unit and integration tests using C++ and Google Test to reduce manual testing overhead.

DevOps & Cloud Projects

- Built automated RHEL/Rocky Linux provisioning and configuration workflows using **Ansible** roles and playbooks to replicate enclave automation patterns in a lab environment.
- Created Linux hardening and compliance scripts to practice DISA STIG, SCAP, and SELinux policy automation in a controlled environment.
- Created CI/CD pipelines using **GitHub Actions** to lint and validate infrastructure code, run automated tests, and publish versioned build artifacts.
- Built Linux automation scripts (Bash, Python) to reduce manual toil for patching, log management, system validation, and recurring maintenance tasks.

Education

Southern Arkansas University
Expected: December 2025
M.S. in Computer and Information Science

Utah Valley University
April 2020
B.S. in Computer Science (GPA: 3.6 / 4.0)