Reed McFadden

Active 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, automation, and STIG compliance. Experienced with Ansible, virtualization platforms, Satellite/IDM, and secure enclave operations. Actively expanding skills in Terraform, Kubernetes, and CI/CD tooling to support modern DevSecOps engineering environments.

Technical Skills

- RHCE, RHCSA, Security+, Linux+, AWS Cloud Practitioner
- Linux (RHEL, Rocky), virtualization (vSphere, ESXi, KVM, Proxmox)
- Infrastructure-as-Code: Ansible, Terraform (learning), YAML, Git, Bash, Perl
- Containers/Orchestration: Docker, Podman, Kubernetes (learning)
- 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

General Dynamics Mission Systems (GDMS)

September 2025 – Present

- 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

BAE Systems

March 2025 - June 2025

- 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

Stratascorp

September 2024 - February 2025

- 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
Assured Information Security (AIS)
August 2022 - March 2024

- 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
United States Air Force
July 2020 - August 2022

- 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.

Projects

- Created CI/CD pipelines using **GitHub Actions** to generate resume pdf and GitHub Pages website.
- Deployed Rocky Linux VMs and used SCAP/OSCAP tooling to scan against DISA STIG benchmarks, practicing remediation and verification of security findings.
- Developed Ansible playbooks to harden Linux systems (e.g., disabling Wi-Fi/Bluetooth, removing unnecessary packages, tightening local security settings).
- Installed and administered a Proxmox VE host to run Rocky Linux VMs for lab, testing, and security-hardening scenarios.
- Actively building hands-on experience with Terraform, Kubernetes, and GitLab CI/CD through homelab automation projects to expand DevOps proficiency.

Education

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

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