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, 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
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.

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
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