Simon Hills

DevOps Engineer

Contact

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Websites, Portfolios, Profiles

- https://www.linkedin.com/in/simon-hills-3a919925/

Skills

Cloud Platforms

- AWS Certified (AWS Solutions Architect - Associate)

- EC2, S3

Containerization

- Kubernetes

- Docker

- Docker swarm

Infrastructure as Code

- Ansible

- terraform

- Saltstack

Results-driven DevOps Engineer with 20+ years of experience in Unix/Linux administration, automation, and CI/CD pipelines. Skilled in optimizing deployment processes, enhancing infrastructure scalability, and streamlining operations through automation. Strong background in scripting, configuration management, and patching solutions. Committed to delivering high-quality results and driving continuous improvement in all aspects of DevOps operations.

Work History

2016-03 - Current

DevOps Engineer

Daisy Corporte Services (now Wavenet), London, UK

- Jointly developed a bespoke application using NetBox as a foundation, built with Django and deployed on a Kubernetes (K8s) cluster using a GitLab CI/CD pipeline. The application automates and manages infrastructure processes, including server deployment, patching through Kaseya API deployment profiles, and ACI configuration.

- Utilized Docker containers (running Alpine images) to support the NetBox application, enabling API interactions with various applications using PowerShell and Python. This setup facilitated data extraction and updates, including managing ACI configurations directly through the application.

- Developed custom solutions with Ansible to improve patching processes, including advanced error capture, pre-patching issue detection (e.g., disk space monitoring), and automated reporting). Code base stored in GitLab.

- Led the migration from SaltStack to Ansible, adopting Ansible as an industry-standard solution. This transition enhanced functionality for reporting, access management, and overall automation capabilities.

- Utilized SaltStack for automating Linux patching, user administration, server hardening, and configuration management, ensuring consistent and secure system operations.

- Created bespoke PDF reports post-patching, providing clients with detailed updates on

CI/CD

- GitLab CI/CD pipelines

Monitoring

- LogicMonitor

- Prometheus

- Nagios

- Portainer

Scripting Languages

- Python

- Powershell

- Perl

- bash

Configuration Management

- Ansible

- Saltstack

- Cfengine

Version control

- Git

- GitLab

- GitHub

Virtualization

- Vmware

- NetApp

Linux Operating System

Redhat/Centos/Alma

- Debian / Ubuntu

patching status and system health.

- Co-developed a custom API solution for Windows patch management in collaboration with Kaseya developers, written entirely in Python to enable functionality beyond the native capabilities of the Kaseya application. The solution identified 'Patch Tuesday' dates and automated patch scheduling for groups of servers.
- Developed Python scripts to manage the entire patching lifecycle, from assigning deployment profiles to applying patch schedules within the Kaseya application using the Kaseya api.
- Integrated robust error checking with automated alerts through Teams channels and emails, ensuring timely responses to issues.
- Generated detailed reports, which were uploaded into PowerBI, providing clients with clear insights into their patching status and progress.
- Managed MSSPLA audits by developing bespoke scripts to connect to the Kaseya API and execute PowerShell collection scripts across targeted Windows hosts. Leveraged both PowerShell and Python to automate data collection and reporting, securely transferring the audit reports to a secure FTP server. This solution streamlined compliance with MSSPLA requirements, ensuring accurate and efficient reporting.

2013-03 -
2016-03

Senior Unix Administrator

Monitise, London, UK

- Developed a method for capturing expiring SSL certificates within the company's environments using bespoke scripts
- Automated server configuration and hardening using Ansible playbooks, improving consistency and compliance
- Managed the SSL certificate renewal process under change control procedures, ensuring smooth coordination with customers for timely updates and compliance
- Provided live support for Production Managed Unix platforms, serving high-profile clients including RBS, VISA, and Coop

2010-09 - 2013-02	**Senior Unix Administrator**

2e2, London, UK

- Built and configured 70+ RHEL5 servers using OPSware and Cfengine for data center migration projects
- Developed scripts for automated server provisioning and migration, reducing manual effort and error rates
- Managed cloud migration strategies and performed system upgrades to ensure smooth transitions between environments

Education

1992-09 - 2024-06	**BSc**: **Computer Science**

Anglia Polytechnic University - Chelmsford

1991-09 - 1992-06	**A-Level**: **Computing**

Chelmsford College - Chelmsford, ESS

1984-12 - 1991-10	**GCSEs**: **Computing (B), Maths (C)**

Boswell's Comprehensive School - Chelmsford, ESS

Certifications

2019-07	Aws solutions Architect
2019-05	AWS Cloud Practitioner
2008-06	Solaris 10 Sun Certified System Administrator (SCSA)
	Solaris 9 Sun Certified System Administrator (SCSA)
	Solaris 9 Sun Certified Network Administrator (SCNA)

References

Available upon request.