

# Simon Hills

DevOps Engineer

## Contact

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## Websites, Portfolios, Profiles

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

## Skills

Ansible

Terraform

Git

Bash

Python

Docker

Kubernetes

Nagios

SSL

SSH

VPN

PAM

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.
- Implemented and configured SaltStack as an orchestration tool for the Linux estate, with the codebase stored in GitLab.
- Utilized SaltStack for automating Linux patching, user administration, server hardening, and configuration management, ensuring consistent and secure system operations.
- 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.
- 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.

VMware

NetApp

Linux Operating System

Scripting Languages

System Administration

Infrastructure Automation

Configuration Management

Monitoring and Logging

Containerization

Technologies

Microservices Architecture

Build releases

- Created bespoke PDF reports post-patching, providing clients with detailed updates on 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
- Managed the renewal process under change control procedures, ensuring smooth coordination with customers for timely updates and compliance
- Implemented two-factor authentication for production environments using PAM radius modules and SSH keys, enhancing security
- Managed Unix platforms and applications on live production systems for banking applications,

	<p>providing critical support for high-profile clients including RBS, VISA, and Coop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensured optimal performance, stability, and timely issue resolution for production environments</li><li>• Automated server configuration and hardening using Ansible playbooks, improving consistency and compliance</li><li>• Provided live support for production platforms, serving high-profile clients including RBS, VISA, and Coop</li></ul>
2010-09 - 2013-02	<p><b>Senior Unix Administrator</b></p> <p><i>2e2, London, UK</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Built and configured 70+ RHEL5 servers using OPSware and Cfengine for data center migration projects</li><li>• Developed scripts for automated server provisioning and migration, reducing manual effort and error rates</li><li>• Designed and implemented network monitoring solutions using OPManger and SNMP, enhancing infrastructure visibility</li><li>• Managed cloud migration strategies and performed system upgrades to ensure smooth transitions between environments</li></ul>

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## Education

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1992-09 - 2024-06	<p><b>BSc: Computer Science</b></p> <p><i>Anglia Polytechnic University - Chelmsford</i></p>
1991-09 - 1992-06	<p><b>A-Level: Computing</b></p> <p><i>Chelmsford College - Chelmsford, ESS</i></p>
1984-12 - 1991-10	<p><b>GCSEs: Computing (B), Maths (C)</b></p> <p><i>Boswell's Comprehensive School - Chelmsford, ESS</i></p>

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## References

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Available upon request.