**Simon Hills**

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**Personal Profile**

Results-driven DevOps Engineer with over 20 years of experience in Unix/Linux administration, automation, and CI/CD pipelines. Proven ability to optimize deployment processes, enhance infrastructure scalability, and streamline operations through automation. Strong background in scripting, configuration management.

**Professional Experience**

**Senior Unix Admistrator**

Daisy Corporte Services (now Wavenet) | London, UK | Mar 2013 – Present

- Co-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 deploying new servers, 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. The containers were deployed on a Kubernetes (K8s) cluster for scalability and efficiency.  
- 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, enhancing functionality for reporting, access management, and logging. Developed custom solutions to improve patching processes, including advanced error capture, pre-patching issue detection (e.g., disk space monitoring), and automated reporting. 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. 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 processes, securely transferring the audit reports to a secure FTP server. This solution streamlined compliance with MSSPLA requirements and ensured accurate, efficient reporting.

**Senior Unix Admistrator**

Monitise| London, UK | Mar 2013 – March 2016 (Tupe'd to Daisy Corporate Services)

* - 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, providing critical support for high-profile clients including RBS, VISA, and Coop. Ensured optimal performance, stability, and timely issue resolution for production environments.  
  - Automated server configuration and hardening using Ansible playbooks, improving consistency and compliance.  
  - Provided live support for production platforms, serving high-profile clients including RBS, VISA, and Coop.

**Senior Unix Administrator**

2e2 | London, UK | Sept 2010 – Feb 2013

* - 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.  
  - Designed and implemented network monitoring solutions using OPManager and SNMP, enhancing infrastructure visibility.  
  - Managed cloud migration strategies and performed system upgrades to ensure smooth transitions between environments.

**Technical Skills**

* - \*\*Cloud Platforms\*\*: AWS (EC2, S3, EBS, ELB, Autoscaler), Apache CloudStack  
  - \*\*CI/CD & Automation\*\*: Jenkins, Ansible, Terraform, Git, Bash, Python  
  - \*\*Configuration Management\*\*: Ansible, Cfengine  
  - \*\*Scripting Languages\*\*: Python, Bash, Perl  
  - \*\*Containers & Orchestration\*\*: Docker, Kubernetes  
  - \*\*Monitoring & Logging\*\*: Splunk, Nagios, Prometheus  
  - \*\*Networking & Security\*\*: F5, SSL, SSH, VPN, PAM, Firewalls  
  - \*\*Infrastructure Management\*\*: VMware, Veritas, NetApp, EMC SAN

**Professional Qualifications**

* - AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner  
  - AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate  
  - Solaris 10 Sun Certified System Administrator (SCSA)  
  - Solaris 9 Sun Certified System Administrator (SCSA)  
  - Solaris 9 Sun Certified Network Administrator (SCNA)

**Education**

BSc Computer Science, Anglia Polytechnic University, Chelmsford, UK  
A-Level: Computing, Chelmsford College  
GCSEs: 6 including Computing (B) and Maths (C), Boswell’s Comprehensive School, Chelmsford, UK

**Personal Interests**

A passionate cyclist, having completed rides such as Paris to London and John O’Groats to Lands’ End. Regularly participates in spinning sessions and enjoys long-distance rides.

**References**

Available upon request.