

Tom Dean

Greater Chicago Area

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Links

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/tomdeanjr>

GitHub: <https://github.com/southsidedean>

Summary

I'm a seasoned technologist, looking for direct-hire or W2 contract roles. I'm available on short-notice.

Top Skills:

- Linux
- Kubernetes
- Cloud (AWS and a little Azure and GCP)
- Cloud Native (Containers, Docker/Podman and Kubernetes)
- Automation (Terraform, CloudFormation, Bash and some Python)

Biography

I've had the pleasure of working with physical, virtual, Cloud and Cloud Native technologies for many years. I have worn many hats – educator, team lead, architect, engineer, project manager, business advocate and more, with both pre-sales and post-sales experience. I can speak to a wide variety of both technical and non-technical audiences. My experience leveraging process and automation helps me to achieve fast, accurate and consistent results.

I'm a big believer in documenting all things and sharing the knowledge, both written (GitHub) and video (YouTube). I like leaving things better than I found them, and wrangling, documenting and automating tribal knowledge along the way.

I added teaching and content production to my skill set over three years ago, so I could leverage over 25 years of technology experience to create great courses with lessons and hands-on labs to help my students master technology, changing lives for the better. Along the way, I've been a student as well, learning how to write, record, edit and produce my own content and create and deploy labs in AWS using CloudFormation and Terraform.

I've been expanding my Cloud, Cloud Native and adjacent subject matter knowledge to become a more well-rounded technologist. I'm currently working on attaining the Cloud Native Computing Foundation's CKA and CKAD certifications.

Let's build something great together!

Experience

Education Curriculum Architect/Developer

D2iQ · Full-time

Aug 2021 - Feb 2023 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

As a principal on my team at D2iQ, I owned the Learning and Development function and managed the day-to-day and strategic operations of content development and class delivery.

I was in charge of maintaining and delivering a catalog of instructor-led courses that included the Cloud Native Computing Foundation (CNCF) space and a growing catalog of other Kubernetes topics, for both internal and external students, including building, improving, optimizing and maintaining an in-house, automated hands-on labs platform in Amazon Web Services (AWS), using GitLab, CI/CD and Terraform to deliver valuable hands-on experience for our students.

Throughout 2022, I also led a selection process to select a learning management system and accompanying hands-on labs system to make a pivot to on-demand learning. I evaluated the scope of public offerings for learning management systems (Docebo, Skilljar, Blackboard, Instructure, Appsembler and more) and hands-on labs systems (CloudShare, Skillable, Instruqt, Appsembler and more). I spent the end of 2022 integrating our selection of Docebo and CloudShare so we could fill it with content and labs and launch in early 2023. Unfortunately, the project was cancelled in early 2023 and my position was eliminated.

In my role, I not only led, but was hands-on, from writing Terraform automation in GitLab to build lab environments in AWS, to advancing my fledgling Kubernetes skills every day as both a student and a teacher.

Skills: Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) · Gitlab · GitHub · Kubernetes · Containers · Terraform · Amazon Web Services (AWS) · Podman · Docker · DevOps · Git · GitOps · AWS CloudFormation · Virtualization · Linux KVM · VMware · Linux · Ubuntu · Red Hat Linux · Microsoft Azure · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Mac OS X

Training Architect

A Cloud Guru · Full-time

Aug 2020 - Jul 2021 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

As a Training Architect, I leveraged over 25 years of technology experience to create great courses with lessons and hands-on labs to help my students achieve their learning goals and change their lives for the better.

With LA/ACG, I was a one-man content machine, from creating the course syllabus to authoring slide decks and markdown, creating and editing video and audio, authoring labs in AWS using CloudFormation, and much more. In addition to course work, I hosted Linux This Month and participated in the first ACG Community Summit.

Courses Authored:

- Red Hat Certified System Administrator (EX200) Exam Prep
- Hands-on with Podman Containers on Linux
- Hands-on with HAProxy Load Balancer

Skills: GitHub · Kubernetes · Containers · Amazon Web Services (AWS) · Podman · Docker · DevOps · Git · GitOps · AWS CloudFormation · Virtualization · Linux KVM · Linux · Ubuntu · Red Hat Linux · Microsoft Azure · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Mac OS X

Linux Training Architect

Linux Academy · Full-time

Sep 2019 - Aug 2020 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

As a Training Architect, I leveraged over 25 years of technology experience to create great courses with lessons and hands-on labs to help my students achieve their learning goals and change their lives for the better.

With LA/ACG, I was a one-man content machine, from creating the course syllabus to authoring slide decks and markdown, creating and editing video and audio, authoring labs in AWS using CloudFormation, and much more.

I moved to A Cloud Guru in August 2020 as part of the acquisition of Linux Academy.

Courses Authored:

- LEMP Stack Deep Dive
- KVM Virtualization on Linux
- Managing Linux Servers with Cockpit

Skills: GitHub · Kubernetes · Containers · Amazon Web Services (AWS) · Podman · Docker · DevOps · Git · GitOps · AWS CloudFormation · Virtualization · Linux KVM · Linux · Ubuntu · Red Hat Linux · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Mac OS X

Linux Engineering / Architecture / Project Management

Lucid Services Group · Contract

Apr 2019 - Jul 2019 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

My role with Lucid was a three month assignment at Indiana University. In that role, I was in charge of retiring / transitioning applications and services on a number of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) servers, as well as providing interim support for the customers during the transition. The servers were a mix of RHEL 5/6/7 on VMWare (with vRA). In this role I was not just an architect and engineer, but also a project manager in charge of building customer relationships to assure success. My role with Lucid was a three month assignment at Indiana University. In that role, I was in charge of retiring / transitioning applications and services on a number of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) servers, as well as providing interim support for the customers during the transition. The servers were a mix of RHEL 5/6/7 on VMWare (with vRA). In this role I was not just an architect and engineer, but also a project manager in charge of building customer relationships to assure success.

Skills: Virtualization · VMware · Linux · Ubuntu · Red Hat Linux · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Mac OS X

Systems Engineer - Windows / Linux / Network

Farm Journal · Freelance

Feb 2019 - Apr 2019 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

I was on-call as an Independent Consultant on a series of smaller projects for Farm Journal Media as needed. This was a secondary role for me.

Skills: Virtualization · VMware · Linux · Ubuntu · Red Hat Linux · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Server Architecture · Mac OS X

Sabbatical - Training / Hobbies / Dad Time

Dean Household

Sep 2018 - Feb 2019 · Greater Chicago Area · On-site

I took some time off to stop and smell the roses and enjoy time being a Dad to my first grader. Enjoying my hobbies. Working on projects around the house. Professional training (oVirt, Linux, Foreman / Katello, Linux containers (Docker / Kubernetes), AWS, DevOps...).

Looked for my next professional adventure and got my batteries recharged.

Skills: KVM · Ansible · Python (Programming Language) · Kubernetes · Amazon Web Services (AWS) · Docker · DevOps · Linux · Red Hat Linux · System Architecture · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · System Deployment · TCP/IP · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Mac OS X

Infrastructure Projects / Architecture / Engineering

Farm Journal · Freelance

Apr 2018 - Aug 2018 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

During this engagement I worked on a series of projects:

- Performed discovery and documentation of customer's overall environment (Windows and Linux servers, storage, networking, backup, disaster recovery, firewalls, Amazon Web Services (AWS) assets
- Audited Active Directory users and groups
- Integrated Okta Single Sign On (SSO) Identity Management with the customer's existing Active Directory environment
- Enabled KnowB4 SSO integration with Okta
- Migrated several terabytes of user and shared data from old Windows servers to Dropbox Cloud Storage and created users and groups for access
- Analyzed and proposed opportunities to virtualize physical servers under VMWare and Hyper-V hypervisors
- Assisted with design and deployment of new Acronis Backup on-premise solution under VMWare

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Linux Lead Engineer

The Phoenix Group · Contract

Jan 2018 - Feb 2018 · Chicago, IL · Hybrid

A short-term contract assignment as a Linux Lead in downtown Chicago, filling in for an employee out on leave. In addition to daily support responsibilities of the Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL), VMWare and Hitachi SAN platforms, I deployed a new Foreman / Katello (Red Hat Satellite 6) environment and maintained the existing Spacewalk (Red Hat Satellite 5) environment.

Skills: Virtualization · VMware · Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Server Architecture · Mac OS X

Senior Linux Architect / Engineer

MSH Group · Contract

Jan 2016 - Dec 2017 · Greater Chicago Area · Remote

As a contractor, I was one of two Level Three Linux Engineers responsible for the Linux environment of over 550 SUSE Linux and Red Hat Enterprise Linux hosts running on a mix of HP hardware and VMWare. I worked both within the Linux team as well as across Infrastructure teams and other business units. I also assisted in the deployment of SUSE Manager and Satellite 6 during my assignment. I represented the team on the weekly change meetings and was given responsibility for the Linux patching process.

Responsibilities included:

- Linux Engineering (Troubleshooting / Architecture / Delivery / QA)
- Project / Process Management
- Oversight of offshore resources
- Change Management
- Compliance Management
- Automation / Scripting
- Operating System Patching and Security Remediation

Skills: Virtualization · VMware · Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · EMC Storage · Server Architecture · Mac OS X · Cisco UCS

Senior Linux Architect / Engineer / Team Lead

Geneva Technical Services · Contract

Jul 2015 - Jan 2016 · Bolingbrook, IL · Hybrid

During my six-month assignment, I led a team of Linux Engineers supporting a rollout of Manhattan WMS and the supporting Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL 6/7) environment. I performed engineering and architecture work to standardize and automate many aspects of the Linux environment. I also led the team on documenting a largely undocumented environment, creating standardized procedures and processes and improved the efficiency and stability of day-to-day operations. The RHEL environment was a mix of virtual (VMWare) and physical (Cisco UCS and HP C7000) connected to EMC storage (with PowerPath). I created and tested the first set of Disaster Recovery (DR) procedures for the environment as well.

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Senior Systems Architect

ITDistributors · Full-time

Jul 2009 - Jun 2015 · Greater Chicago Area · Hybrid

ITDistributors (ITD) was an Edison, NJ based VAR that serviced the telecommunications industry, both as a traditional VAR as well as a provider of frame integration services.

My tenure at ITD had two chapters. In the first two years I served as a Technical Account Manager (TAM) working with Alcatel-Lucent and Motorola. I worked alongside the Sun Microsystems team to add value to the relationship with Sun/ITD. In 2011 I was assigned to AT&T to not only perform in a TAM role but to identify, win and lead a number of projects. Most of these projects were large deployments of Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL 5/6) on IBM BladeCenter servers connected to Hitachi AMS2500 storage with many nodes across many sites, all deployed with custom automation (Kickstart / PXE / Bash).

As AT&T began their move toward retooling on OpenStack I was tapped to be one of two key players in our partnership with Red Hat. In this role I achieved all available Red Hat Partner Platform, Virtualization and Cloud certifications that were available and trained ITD's internal engineering teams on these technologies.

My role with ITD ended in June 2015 as a result of a reduction in force, prior to the closing of the company.

Skills: Virtualization · Linux KVM · VMware · Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Veritas Volume Manager · Server Architecture · OpenStack · Veritas Cluster Server · Mac OS X

Senior Systems Architect

Moongate Technologies · Full-time

2008 - 2009 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · On-site

Moongate Technologies specialized in data storage, protection, virtualization solutions, SOA, Java development and engineering services. In my role as a Senior Systems Architect at Moongate I was responsible for pre and post-sales engineering work to support their customer base. I also assisted with the screening of placement candidates for their staffing arm, Mooncrew.

My last role with Moongate was as technical lead on a major NetBackup project:

- I upgraded the customer's STK SL8500 tape library to 54 HP LTO4 drives.
- I installed ten new Veritas NetBackup media servers using a Jumpstart server we built.
- I also reinstalled Solaris on the existing media servers, using Jumpstart.
- I installed a two-node Veritas Cluster Server (5.0) on Solaris.
- I migrated the existing Veritas NetBackup (on Solaris) master server to the new cluster.
- I installed a new, single-node VCS cluster at their offsite Disaster Recovery site.

Skills: Virtualization · VMware · Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Netbackup · Veritas Volume Manager · EMC Storage · Server Architecture · Veritas Cluster Server · Mac OS X

System Administrator

Indiana Interactive Inc · Full-time

2008 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · Hybrid

At Indiana Interactive I worked on a team of two System Administrators. We were responsible for maintaining everything that ran the IN.gov portal and all related vanity sites – servers, network, firewalls, storage, backups, and more. Our clients included the state of Indiana and all its third-party developers as well our internal development group, the project managers and the creative team (web developers) at Indiana Interactive. We touched almost every aspect of the operation of the entire portal.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Netbackup · Veritas Volume Manager · Server Architecture · Mac OS X

UNIX / Linux Administrator

Monster · Full-time

Feb 2006 - Aug 2007 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · On-site

In my position at Monster, I worked for the Network Operations team that supported the distributed infrastructure in both the Indianapolis and Maynard (MA) NOCs. I worked primarily on the UNIX side, supporting a mix of Linux (RHEL, CentOS, RedHat 7.2 and other) and Solaris servers that ran applications such as Oracle RAC, mail relays, web farms, DNS and other critical infrastructure tasks. I also had a lead role supporting the legacy NetBackup Datacenter 4.5 infrastructure. In addition to my support role I also assisted with the architecture, planning, documentation and deployment of new systems.

Skills: Virtualization · VMware · Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · CentOS · Bash · Netbackup · Veritas Volume Manager · Server Architecture · Veritas Cluster Server · Mac OS X

UNIX Administrator

Apex Systems · Contract

Oct 2005 - Feb 2006 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · On-site

Contract assignment at Eli Lilly, performing UNIX (Solaris) support for the SAP systems. My responsibilities were UNIX system administration and handling of UNIX-related trouble tickets and change requests (using Remedy). Many of the servers we administered were clustered with Veritas Cluster Server.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Bash · Veritas Volume Manager · EMC Storage · Server Architecture · Veritas Cluster Server

Field Engineering - Linux

Avnet Technology Solutions · Contract

2005 · Indiana · On-site

I worked at various locations around Indiana on short-term engagements that involved setting up PACS imaging systems (Linux-based : SUSE and RHEL) at hospitals around Indiana. My responsibility was to finalize the configuration of the systems, integrate the systems into the customer environment and perform final acceptance testing of all systems.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · NFS · Shell Scripting · Bash · Server Architecture

Systems Administrator II – UNIX / Linux

Sallie Mae · Full-time

Jun 2004 - Sep 2004 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · On-site

At Sallie Mae I performed UNIX and Linux systems administration tasks for a group of approximately fifty servers that I was responsible for as well as assisting with the support of the rest of the UNIX servers (200+). I also was part of the on-call rotation. My systems included Solaris, HP/UX and Red Hat Enterprise Linux platforms with some connected to the EMC SAN.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Bash · Veritas Volume Manager · EMC Storage · Server Architecture · Veritas Cluster Server

Unix Support Analyst – Solaris / HP/UX

Princeton Information · Contract

Oct 2003 - Jun 2004 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · On-site

While on assignment for Princeton Information at Sallie Mae in Fishers, IN I worked as a technical lead on a data center migration project, managing the migration of the UNIX (Solaris / HP/UX), Veritas NetBackup and SAN elements of the project. I also assisted the UNIX team with the administration of their servers and associated infrastructure, including applications, Veritas and Sun DiskSuite management and other duties.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Bash · Veritas Volume Manager · EMC Storage · Server Architecture · Veritas Cluster Server

Unix / Linux Support Analyst

Yoh, A Day & Zimmermann Company · Contract

Nov 2000 - May 2003 · Indianapolis, Indiana Area · Hybrid

At Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL) I was responsible for maintaining their Sun servers and UNIX environments, including Solaris, AIX, HP/UX and Linux. I also assisted with their EMC and Hitachi storage platforms (including a two-site SAN), Veritas products (Volume Manager, File System and Netbackup), networking issues, application issues, firewall and intranet server, router and VPN device configuration (Cisco and Nortel), web content administration and more. I participated in two large projects as a key member of the teams : working as a technical lead / project manager on a 9-terabyte two-site SAN implementation and data migration project and the launch of the implementation of IPL's new Outage Management System. I also helped support their Veritas Netbackup environment and their disaster recovery operations.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Bash · Netbackup · Veritas Volume Manager · EMC Storage · Server Architecture

Engineering Manager

CommNet Plus, Inc · Full-time

2000 · Indianapolis, IN · On-site

At CommNet Plus I was responsible for two Systems Engineers, as well as performing the majority of the UNIX integration work, maintaining all the internal systems and helping prepare to launch their Managed Service Provider business.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Netbackup · Veritas Volume Manager · Server Architecture

Senior Systems Engineer

EMC · Full-time

1999 - 2000 · Indianapolis, Indiana · On-site

In my role at EMC I was responsible for supporting a number of named accounts. My job was to know the technical and business needs of my customers and to help propose solutions to fit those needs. Day-to-day tasks included scheduled and impromptu visits to customer sites, handling of customer issues, preparation of quotes and related pricing information, training and self-improvement, report preparation, meetings and more. My salesman and I had Indiana's first Symmetrix SRDF installation in Indiana.

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Storage Area Networks · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Netbackup · Veritas Volume Manager · EMC Storage · Server Architecture

Lead Network Administrator

Macmillan · Full-time

1999 · Indianapolis, Indiana · On-site

Highlights

- Managed Network Team
- Project Manager for cc:Mail to Exchange Migration
- Project Manager for NetWare to Windows NT 4.0 Server Migration

Skills: Linux · Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Server Architecture

Information Systems Manager

NSI Software · Full-time

1997 - 1999 · Indianapolis, Indiana · On-site

Highlights

- Maintained the company infrastructure - Windows NT 4.0 and Sun Solaris servers
- Supported local and field end users
- Served as Webmaster on the company web site

Skills: Red Hat Linux · Unix · Solaris · System Architecture · Disaster Recovery · Networking · DNS · Cisco Technologies · Firewalls · System Administration · Apache · System Deployment · TCP/IP · High Availability · Enterprise Architecture · NFS · Shell Scripting · Server Architecture

Sales Engineer

Creative Computers, Inc. · Full-time

1996 - 1997 · Los Angeles Metropolitan Area · On-site

Highlights

- Supported sales force in sales of networking products
- Trained sales force on networking technologies
- Completed Novell 4.X CNE certification

Skills: System Architecture · Networking · Server Architecture

Network Specialist

CDW · Full-time

1995 - 1996 · Greater Chicago Area · On-site

Highlights

- Worked with customer base to provide networking and computing solutions
- One of six founding members of CDW's network sales division

Skills: System Architecture · Networking · Server Architecture

Education

Purdue University

BA, Psychology / Law and Society

Activities and societies: The Exponent, Staff Writer and Photographer

Skills: Unix · Networking · DNS · System Administration · TCP/IP · Shell Scripting

Valparaiso High School

Diploma

Activities and societies: Yearbook, Foreign Exchange Club

General Studies with a focus on mathematics, chemistry, physics and German.

Current Certifications

Kubernetes and Cloud Native Associate (KCNA)

The Linux Foundation

Issued July 2022 · Expires July 2025

Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900)

Microsoft

Issued July 2020