

To the Esteemed Decision Makers,

I'm writing today to champion a truly exceptional individual, Kim Tran – whose work and conduct quietly reflect the level and impact of a Principal Systems Engineer – not through titles or bravado, but through consistent, high-value performance that speaks for itself.

Over the course of nearly two decades in enterprise IT, Kim has shouldered responsibility in environments where infrastructure cannot fail – often being the one to resolve what others could not. His expertise spans both depth and breadth: from storage architecture and networking to layered troubleshooting and root-cause resolution, always with an eye for long-term stability rather than patchwork fixes. This is not entry-level work; this is seasoned expertise honed through years of practical application.

Kim doesn't just understand infrastructure – he embodies it. He knows how each component interrelates, how one misstep at the fiber, switch, or provisioning layer can cascade. And he resolves those missteps quickly, thoroughly, and with minimal disruption. His problem-solving isn't loud – it's surgical. His background in Linux and storage systems engineering provides a comprehensive understanding of how all the pieces of the IT puzzle fit together, including the critical network infrastructure that underpins it all. This cross-domain knowledge is a hallmark of a Principal Engineer.

Even in environments plagued by inconsistent documentation, rushed deployments, or poorly designed systems, Kim brings clarity and calm. He corrects issues that shouldn't have occurred in the first place – and he does so without finger-pointing, without fanfare, just focused resolve.

He is not someone who chases recognition. But recognition is exactly what his work warrants.

To under-utilize his talents would be to overlook a rare asset: someone who delivers Principal-level impact without needing to announce it. The evidence is in his consistency, his accountability, and his ability to bring order to chaos without complaint.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this endorsement. I believe his contributions speak for themselves – I'm simply here to make sure they're heard.

With the utmost sincerity, unwavering belief in Kim's abilities, and respect,

A peer who knows what real value looks like.

(Advocate wishes to remain unnamed and anonymous).

Dom Thompson
Business Analysis Manager – Planning Services (Services & Logistics)
Cisco Systems
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7/27/2025

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for Kim Tran. I had the opportunity to work with Kim at Dell EMC, where I served as a Senior Business Analyst, and I continue to follow his professional journey closely in my current role as a Business Analysis Manager at Cisco.

Throughout our time at Dell EMC, Kim consistently demonstrated a deep technical acumen, an exceptional work ethic, and a thoughtful, solutions-oriented approach to complex infrastructure challenges. His ability to bridge the gap between enterprise system design and hands-on implementation made him an invaluable contributor to our shared initiatives, particularly in lab infrastructure management and enterprise storage solutions.

Kim brings with him nearly two decades of cumulative experience in systems engineering, storage and backup systems, network support, and infrastructure management. His expertise spans a wide array of technologies including EMC, Dell, NetApp, Hitachi, Cisco, UNIX/Linux systems, and virtual environments such as VMware and Hyper-V. He was instrumental in the deployment and support of a multi-billion dollar research and development lab infrastructure – a project that required meticulous attention to detail, advanced troubleshooting skills, and strong cross-functional collaboration.

What truly distinguishes Kim is his integrity, resilience, and constant drive for self-improvement. Even during periods of planned career transitions, he dedicated himself to expanding his skillset – investing time in refreshing his knowledge of Linux systems, cloud platforms, security protocols, and enterprise networking. This commitment to continuous learning is a hallmark of his character and a testament to his long-term value as a technical professional.

Equally impressive is his versatility. From managing enterprise infrastructure in academic environments like NC State University, to supporting engineering proof-of-concepts at Cisco, to mentoring junior team members, Kim consistently adapts and excels in diverse technical landscapes and team dynamics.

I wholeheartedly recommend Kim Tran for any systems engineering or infrastructure-focused role. His combination of technical depth, professional maturity, and steadfast reliability will make him an immediate asset to any organization.

Please feel free to contact me directly should you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dom Thompson
Business Analysis Manager – Planning Services
Cisco Systems

Verdell Hicks
Sr. Manager
Dell Corporation
4121 Surles Ct
Durham NC 27703
Verdell.hicks@dell.com
508-439-9939
January 10, 2024

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to highly recommend Kim Tran for any professional opportunities he may pursue. As Sr. Manager at Dell, I had the pleasure of working closely with Kim for six years, during which time I had the opportunity to observe and appreciate his outstanding work ethic.

Kim consistently demonstrated a strong commitment to his responsibilities and exhibited an exemplary level of dedication to his work. His attention to detail, enthusiasm, and reliability were evident in every task he undertook. Whether it was handling complex projects, meeting tight deadlines, or collaborating with team members, Kim consistently delivered high-quality results.

One of Kim's notable strengths is his ability to adapt to new challenges and learn quickly. He approached each task with a positive attitude and a willingness to go above and beyond expectations. His effective communication skills and collaborative nature significantly contributed to the overall success of my team and our stated goals. Rarely did time pass without me seeing Kim at his workstation, usually in the lab vs. sitting at his desk, behind his makeshift workstation he designed himself with the tools necessary, readily at his disposal. Kim devours technical challenges like proverbial candy. Kim's organizational skills were crucial in projects where we were maintaining a lab of over 130,000 SF, with well over several thousand cabinets complete with Operating Systems, Storage arrays, Network, and various forms of iSCSI and Fiber connections.

In addition to his technical skills, I was particularly impressed by Kim's strong work ethic and initiative. He took ownership of projects, demonstrated leadership qualities, and was always willing to take on additional responsibilities. Most often my best 1:1 with Kim were often after work hours, long after others had gone home for the day, but he was still diligently working, not only because the project needed him, but because he enjoyed what he was doing. Kim was consistently a reliable team player who could be counted on to contribute positively to the workplace environment.

In summary, I have no doubt that Kim would excel in any professional endeavor he chooses to pursue. His exceptional work ethic, dedication, and interpersonal skills make him an invaluable asset to any team. I am confident that he will continue to achieve great success and positively impact any organization fortunate enough to have him on board.

Should you require any further information or have specific questions about Kim, please feel free to contact me at verdell.hicks@dell.com or 508-439-9939.

Thank you for considering my recommendation. I have no doubt that Kim will make significant contributions wherever his career may take him.

Sincerely,

Verdell Hicks
Sr. Manager
Dell Corporation

10/25/13

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of reference for Kim Tran.

Kim has been employed by me as a contractor for Emulex Corporation for the last year. In his assignment, Kim tested Emulex converged network adapters in IBM blade servers as part of an Emulex test team working inside IBM's facility in North Carolina. Kim was a great addition to the team, with his ability to quickly come up to speed on all the intricacies of testing this complex product, and particularly his excellent teamwork. During the time that Kim contracted for me, I was continually impressed by his work ethic, his technical ability, and his can-do attitude. He completed his assignments successfully and was a pleasure to have on my team.

Thanks,

Kathy Hughes
Sr. Manager, Engineering
Emulex Corporation
3333 Susan St.
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Gerald E. Thome
4321 W. College Ave Ste. 400
Appleton, WI 54914
June 19, 2009

Dear Hiring Manager:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Kim Tran. I have known and worked with Kim for most of the past three years.

Kim has always displayed a high degree of integrity, responsibility, and ambition. He is an ambitious and hard working person, one whose daily interactions I miss. Kim was released from CDW due to an internal staff reductions, it was not related directly to his performance.

While Kim was at CDW he obtained several technical certifications, and learned at a rapid pace. Not only did Kim learn quickly, he showed good ability to apply the newly learned information to solve problems.

Kim is a dependable team player. His judgment and outlook ensure a logical and practical approach to his endeavors.

I am certain Kim would be an asset to your organization.

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Thome
Professional Services Manager
CDW Corporation