Alexander Simpson

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Overview

I am a cloud specialist with almost 7 years industry experience with a strong passion for public cloud and automation. I consider myself a true technology evangelist as when I am not working I can be found building games in Unity and C# or server-less architectures for charities. I aspire to be one of Australia's top public cloud experts with a proven track record of successfully transitioning organisations to the cloud solution that best suits their requirements. My aim is to find a workplace that is full of like-minded people, that I can collaborate with and be inspired by.

Key Skills

- AWS certified (2017 + 2018)
- VMware certified (2017)
- Automation - Process automation, scripting reports, and general development
- Networking (physical and virtual)
- Architecture & Design
- Client engagement - Workshops, presentations, consultation, requirement gathering
- Systems improvement - Proof of concepts, testing, validation, deployments, and documentation
- Leadership - AWS team lead, principal technical contact for multiple clients

Professional experience

CITEC, Brisbane | 2017 - Present
Cloud Specialist

CITEC is the main IT service provider for the QLD government. We provide connectivity, security and private cloud solutions all around QLD to many government agencies.
As a cloud specialist, I am the principal for anything built on AWS. This includes consulting with clients to gather requirements, architecting and implementing solutions. The cloud services team consists of thirteen people with two (or more) people reporting to me, depending on the project.

Responsibilities:
- Principal AWS architect
- Consulting on AWS deployments for government agencies
- Designing and implementing VMware container platform (VIC & PhotonOS)
- Design and implementation of custom, multi-node Linux applications
- Documenting the best practices and procedures
- Training new team members and guiding colleagues towards technical solutions

Achievements/Projects
- AWS Workspaces - Lead architect and team leader. I set up an automated and multi-tenanted design that can be rolled out government-wide. Initial trials have reported a 95% satisfaction rate amongst users.
- Vmware Container Platform - Architected and implemented a multi-tenanted container hosting platform using VMware's "vSphere Integrated Container" stack. Multiple government agencies are now consuming containers built on this platform.

CITEC, Brisbane | 2014 - 2017
Virtualisation Specialist
As virtualisation specialists, my team of eight were responsible for architecting and administering our VMware private cloud stack. My primary responsibility was focused on automation of processes, building command line user interfaces and scripting reports for other areas of the business.

Responsibilities:
- Advanced Power-Shell scripting and automation
- Automating vSphere, OVM Hyper-V, and AWS environments
- VMware vCloud Director and vRealize suite architecture and implementation
- Designing and implementing Shared + Dedicated vSphere infrastructure platform
- ESXi (Linux) host implementation & administration
- Migrating workloads from between cloud endpoints
- Implementing & designing major version upgrades for clients, including vSphere, ESXi, Trend Deep Security
- Dell, CISCO and HP hardware administration and implementation

Achievements/Projects
- Building a multi-site highly available NFS share for our whole environment to use as a file share using Linux applications (Gluster + Ganesha stack). This application stack has vastly simplified the administration required to transport large quantities of data between our private clouds, all in a secure and automatically replicated manner.
- Designed and performed a major upgrade of multiple clients VMware on-premise cloud environment. The project took 4 weeks and there were no unexpected outages in the process.

CITEC, Brisbane | 2013 - 2014
Senior IT Systems Administrator
My role as a Microsoft senior Sys-Admin was centred around scripting and automation. I was tasked with automating aspects of my colleagues day to day actions. Using mainly PowerShell I automated everything from financial reports, to an admin CLI for my colleagues to do complex tasks with ease.

Responsibilities
- Advanced PowerShell scripting and process automation
- Documenting the best practices and procedures
- Training new team members and guiding colleagues towards technical solutions
- Setting technology direction and strategy
- Windows Server administration and implementation

Achievements/Projects
- Building an Admin CLI in PowerShell to allow users from across the organisation to perform complex tasks, generate environment reports on demand and simplify after hours support. This CLI is still being used widely across CITEC and has even been taken over by another team to maintain.

Previous career history (details can be provided on request)
- 2012-2013 | CITEC, IT Systems Administrator (Windows)
- 2011-2012 | CITEC, Call-Center Operator

Qualifications
- AWS-AN-S Advanced Networking Specialty - 2018
- AWS-SA-A Solutions Architect Associate - 2017
- AWS-D-A Developer Associate - 2017
- AWS-SO-A Sys-Ops Associate - 2017
- VCP-DCV-6 Vmware Certified Professional - Data Center Virtualisation - 2017
- Powershell Advanced Scripting - 2016
- Bachelor of Commerce - Double Major - MgmtScience, Mgmt - 2010

Technical expertise
- AWS - Two years using the platform and full-time AWS lead for one year - Workspaces, Amazon Connect, Cloud Formation, DirectConnect, VPN's and EC2
- Linux - Over two years using Linux OS's full time – RedHat, CentOS, Ubuntu, OpenSUSE
- Bash - Automating Linux servers with bash scripts for over two years
- PowerShell - Automating enterprise processes for four years and creating admin CLI's
- VMware - Four years professional experience on the full private cloud stack - vROP's, vCenter, vCloud Director, vRealize Orchestrator and ESXi
- Serverless Architectures - Building serverless a web app for a charity since mid-2017 - API Gateway, DynamoDB, Lambda, Cognito, S3, CloudFront, Route53
- Javascript - Using the language for three years, built my own personal sites early 2017
- C# - Developing "indie" games at home in my spare time for a year and a half
- Microsoft - Sys-Admin experience with multi-tenanted environments - AD, SCCM, VMM, Windows Server 2003-2016

Hobbies / interests
- Restoring Classic Cars (I am currently re-building a 1984 Celica Supra)
- Personal blogs (www.blog.leet.cloud & www.littlekiwibus.com)
- Dev-Ops meetups
- Wargaming / board games
- Painting & building models

References

Available on request.