Blair Strater   (630) 470-1769 strater@pm.me

Operations/"DevOps", Linux administrator, and Python developer with 8+ years professional experience. Focusing on operations automation, information security, and on-premises virtualization. Minor experience as a field technician for business and residential customers.

Currently seeking a systems administrator or Python developer role.

Core Skills

Linux: Setup, maintenance, and recovery of Debian, CentOS/RHEL, Ubuntu systems
Networking: IPv4/IPv6 setup & maintenance, Cisco configuration, OpenVPN deployment
Virtualization: libvirt, KVM/QEMU, VirtIO, optimizing Windows/Linux guests, AWS, Azure
Languages: English, Python, Bash, *limited* PHP and MySQL/PostgreSQL/SQLite3

Security: Advanced knowledge of cryptography software, such as cipher suites and best practices for deployment and ongoing compliance. PKI rollouts, single-sign-on, network hardening, and *some* incident response. Training for both executives and end-users.

Professional Experience

Freelance Systems Administrator/Programmer
Mostly Remote   May '18 – Present
- A tool notifying a reseller firm within minutes when a luxury brand adds new products
- A self-hostable search engine for ActivityPub-based social networking websites
- Multiple "road warrior" and site-to-site VPN rollouts for small- and medium-sized firms
- Many smaller automation tools for various open source projects
- Light penetration testing, mostly network reconnaissance and reviewing configs

Python Developer; Systems Administrator
Chi Networks, Chicago   Jun '15 – Apr '18
Technologies used: Linux, Python 2 and 3, Dell iDRAC, libvirt, VMWare, Cisco IOS
- Designed, developed, and maintained in-house automation for bare-metal installs.
- Created APIs for other in-house applications to audit, configure, and inventory physical servers, virtual guests, and networking equipment on an automated basis.
- Designed and developed in-house automation in Python for "one click" creation and provisioning of OpenVPN infrastructure for resale to business customers
- Deployed a small-scale Ceph distributed storage cluster for archival storage
- On-call response for customer outages and maintenance on managed equipment
- Occasional on-site customer-facing work. Technical contact for multiple businesses.

Remote Services Technician
Support.com, Inc, Redwood City, CA   Sep '14 – Jan '15
- Received escalated inbound technical support calls for the Comcast tenant
- Used customer input and diagnostic tools to resolve residential Internet problems
- Provided customers with home networking support for their Xfinity Internet service
- Used remote access tools to "reach into" customer's computers to assist them

Jr. Network Engineer
CloudSpotter Technologies, Chicago   Dec '13 – July '14
Technologies used: Linux, Python 2, PHP
- Designed a hardware solution for live event photography, moving large, detailed photos across event venues, in real-time, for registration and facial recognition, in Python
- Secured web-facing Linux application servers against persistent targeted attacks
- Assisted founder in securing his online presence against malicious actors

Field Technician
SmartSource, Inc., West Chicago   Sep '13 – Mar '14
- Responded to service calls for clients including large banks and retail chains
- Worked as part of a team for company-wide system migrations/tech refreshes
- Migrated companies such as R.W. Baird and Allstate Insurance