

Darrell Burgher

Skills & Attributes

Personal Attributes

- A professional who understands that best results are achieved through collaborating with others, and not just in working alone.
- A natural-born teacher who will do what it takes to up-skill the people around myself, and has an opinion on what constitutes great work.
- Broadly-skilled with the ability to adapt to different tools or work-flows according to the deadline or output required.
- Passionate about keeping abreast of changes in my chosen area of technologies.
- The ability to ingest constructive criticism and work with team input while staying true to the product
- The maturity to work purposefully and steadily under pressure with all kinds of clients
- The culture of imparting knowledge to co-workers, regardless of years of experience, and to constantly acquire and adopt knowledge from others
- A strong online presence (I share my interests on social platforms) and innate drive to share my knowledge with the Linux community
- Career-focused with the motivation to forge my own path to success within a high-performing team
- The drive to be the best in the industry in every task I undertake
- The diligence and discipline to get things done, no matter the level or perceived cachet of the task

Accomplishments

I have built and configured many data centre environments from the ground up, whether QA or production environments. My automated scripting procedures are very sought after and have aided in; monitoring and future growth and research. This also helps in assessing organizational needs. I have accomplished the implementation of new work process flow which has increased productivity in large environments.

Largest Management:

- 7 Firewalls, 1208 Linux Servers and 22 Windows Servers, 6 DNS Servers, 4 Fibre Switches, 2 NetApp SAN's and Extreme Networks S-Series S6 multi-Switching environments.
- Designed VoIP Server and implemented SIP Technologies for entire company.

Hardware

Servers:

- I manage all the procurement, Server upgrades, BIOS Configuring, Raid building and preparation of servers to be racked in the Data Centre.
- I work closely with Dell and server monitoring.
- Servers I have worked with include Dell R410, R420, R530, R710, R720 & R730
- Dell Storage: PowerVault MD3220i, NX3230
- HP, IBM & Custom built Intel Servers



Switches:

- I have configured and implemented Cisco Switches and routers in data centers
- I have worked extensively with Enterasys & Brocade Fibre switching
- I have a solid knowledge of Vlan, routing and traffic control



Fortigate Firewalls & Fortinet:

- One of my biggest strong points are Fortigate firewalls
- I purchase, plan and implement all firewalls from the ground up.
- I have managed 5 Fortigate Firewalls and 2 Web Application Firewalls
- Experience in high availability and use various methods of virtualisation and policy planning.
- A vast knowledge of FortiAP and its integration with Fortigate



VoIP & VoIP Devices:

- Current Working Knowledge of Grandstream, Snom & Polycom
- Extensive experience with Asterisk & FreePBX

Software & Operating Systems

Operating Systems:

- Unix System V
- Redhat EL
- CentOS
- Debian / Ubuntu
- Slackware
- Arch Linux
- FreeBSD
- Windows SBS, NT4, 2000, 7, 10
- Novel Netware



Software & packages:

- Monitoring: Nagios, Cacti, Zabbix, Grafana, Graphite, Prometheus
- Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MariaDB, MongoDB
- DNS: Bind9
- Mail: Sendmail, Postfix & Exim4
- Vmware: ESXi, vSphere with Operations Management, vCloud Director, vCenter Server
- Virtualization:
- Configuration Management: Chef, Puppet, Jenkins
- Web Servers: Apache2, Nginx
- Proxy: HAProxy, Nginx
- Linux shell scripting: Bash, Python
- Azure: Compute, Storage, Database & Networking
- VoIP: Asterisk, FreePBX



Networking:

- Network design, planning & implementation
- Network & Com's troubleshooting
- Routing LAN/WAN Interconnectivity
- Network Access / Distribution & Core switching design & implementation
- Firewall & VPN Technologies
- TCP/IP
- Wireless Networks & Encryption
- Capacity Planning



Cloud & Data Centres

I have worked with and collaborated on various cloud infrastructures like:

- AWS - Databases, web servers, firewalls & DNS (Servers: 20)
- GCP - K8s, VPC, Registry, Compute, IAM, Bigtable, SQL, Cloud Armor
- Linode - Database, Web, Mail, CRM, firewall, proxy, DNS (Servers: 36)
- Terraco - Redundant backups, SAN
- Internet Solutions - Database, Web, Mail, Glassfish (Servers: 32)
- RSASWeb - Database, Web, Mail, CRM, firewall, proxy, DNS (Servers: 36)
- Kira DC, Uganda - Oracle, Web, Fortigate, DNS, SAN (Servers: 48)



Training & Support:

- I have given training to various institutes like Academy of Learning, Damelin Various Schools and Universities on request.

Other Skills:

- Circuit design & Repair
- Audio & Video editing
- Topologies and Server Architecture
- 20+ years of progressive hands-on experience in Linux server administration looking after 30+ servers and up to 500 users.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Good eye for detail and ability to solve problems
- Comfortable dealing with technical people or novices alike and can explain difficult concepts in a simple, understandable way
- Strong technical competency
- Strong customer focus and experience working with customers
- Experience in a mission-critical online, production environment serving many customers
- I have a strong understanding of how to architect large online sites in a production
- Ability to analyse logs and troubleshooting issues, including malicious activity or cybersecurity threats, code and systems errors
- Excellent usage and understanding of infrastructure orchestration systems such as Ansible and Ansible Tower, Terraform Chef, Puppet, Saltstack
- Experience with code repositories Github/Gitlab
- Experience with CI/CD pipelines
- Experience with Google GKE, Amazon EKS, Azure AKS, Openshift
- Scripting and programming languages (Bash, Python)
- Knowledge of CatX, Fibre, Diginet LAN, WAN, VPN, Mobile & MPLS networks
- Knowledge, Implementation & Management of Linux Virtual Machines (KVM), VMWare, ESXi, SAN, Raid (Hardware & Software), Backup Scripting, SSL, TLS, SEO & Analytics
- Top Level software includes Apache, MySQL, PostgreSQL, Nginx, Memcache, PGBouncer, Docker, Puppet, Bind9, HAProxy, Sphinx, Elastic Search (EFK), Postfix, Sendmail, Exim, DHCP, Samba, NFS & many administration tools (eg: top, iptraf, tcpdump, netstat, etc)
- Knowledge of TCP/IP fundamentals, including application layer protocols (e.g. DNS, FTP, SMTP), firewalls (iptables & ipset) and Edge Gateways.
- Dealing with large organizations – MTN, eCentric Switch, Shoprite, Pick 'n Pay, Innervation, Internet Solutions
- Experience configuring, deploying, and supporting networking monitoring tools (NewRelic, Cacti, monit, MRTG, Nagios, PagerDuty, Grafana, Graphite, Prometheus)
- Operating Systems: Unix System V, Redhat EL, CentOS, Debian / Ubuntu, Slackware, Arch Linux, FreeBSD, Windows SBS, Novel Netware
- Hardware: Dell, HP, Fortigate, Cisco, Enterasys & Extreme Switches, Brocade, Netapp
- VoIP: Maintenance of Asterisk PBX, SIP, Grandstream, Snom & Polycom devices