

Neil H. Watson

September 4, 2009

Greater Toronto Area, <resume_neil@watson-wilson.ca>

<http://watson-wilson.ca>, <http://www.linkedin.com/in/neilhwatson>

- Senior (SAGE Level IV) UNIX/Linux system administrator.
- 15+ years of IT experience.
- Consultant, architect and leader.

Skills

Operating systems: UNIX (Solaris, SCO), Linux (Redhat, Debian, Suse, Gentoo), Windows NT/2000/2003/XP.

Virtualization: VMware ESX, Solaris Zones.

High Availability: Sun Cluster, Red Hat Cluster, Big IP F5, Heartbeat 2.

Hardware: HP, IBM and SUN chassis and blades, HP EVA SANs

Coding: Perl, Shell scripting, Sed, Awk, Subversion, Mod_perl, HTML-Mason, PHP, SQL, HTML, CSS and C.

Monitoring Products: Cfengine, Openview, Insight Manager, SNMP, Sysstat, Big Brother, Opennms.

Network Services: Apache, Tomcat, Jboss, Websphere, DNS/Bind, Samba, NFS.

Databases: MySQL, DB2, Oracle.

Email Services: Postfix, Sendmail, SpamAssassin, Exchange.

Security Products: SSH, SELinux, Iptables, Tcpdump, Wireshark, Snort, Astaro Linux, Ipfiler, SSL.

Experience

UNIX/Linux Consultant Self Employed July 2005 - Present

- High availability consulting with Heartbeat 2, Red Hat and Sun Cluster suite.
- Design and deploy Cfengine service.
- Design and deploy backup services.
- Troubleshoot Continuent MySQL cluster.
- Upgrade, install and repair server chassis.

System Administrator Symcor Contract, May 2009 - Present

- UNIX project team and tier 2 UNIX support (Red Hat, SUSE, Solaris and AIX).
- UNIX resource for internal and customer facing projects.
- Modernized security policy for Red Hat servers.
- Delivered clustered print services using SUSE, Heartbeat 2 and InfoPrint Process Director.
- Initiated configuration management using Cfengine 3.

UNIX Systems Specialist eHealth Ontario Contract, July 2008 - October 2008

- Installed and managed hundreds of Solaris 9 and 10 servers, with Zones, located in multiple data centres.
- Maintained, upgraded and repaired SUN and HP Chassis.
- Protected hosts against intrusion according to government and security industry best practices.
- Assisted in Websphere installation and support.
- Participated in architectural planning.
- Collaborated with and support Oracle DBA team.
- Prepared patch reports and execute patching RFCs.
- Built and documented prototype (POC) environments.
- Authored continuous improvement reports to save project and taxpayer resources.

System Administrator IBM, Managed Security Services Contract, October 2007 - July 2008

- Managed Red Hat Linux and VMware ESX servers.

- Managed email (Postfix and Sendmail), J2EE (Tomcat and Jboss), LDAP and Oracle services.
- Managed encrypted e-mail services for North American telco carriers in a 24/7 environment.
- Maintained, upgraded and repaired IBM chassis.
- Spear headed effort to better document services and configuration.
- Constantly strove to improve processes and services.
- Initiated and took charge of system security auditing and compliance.
- Led initiative to improve host, router and switch monitoring through the use of OpenNMS, SNMP and Nagios.
- Mentored junior team members.

System Administrator Dundee Securities January 2006 - October 2007

- Over 300 physical and VMware ESX virtual servers in a mixed Red Hat Linux, Windows and AS400 environment.
- Lead Linux administrator.
- Worked with one of the largest VMware ESX installations in Canada.
- Designed and built a configuration management service for application deployments, disaster recovery and SOX audit compliance.
- Took charge of monitoring network, servers and services using Openview products, Insight Manager, Cfengine and custom applications.
- Managed customer and advisor facing web services with a volume of 4 million hits per day.
- Maintained, upgraded and repaired HP chassis including blade centres.
- Instrumental in the planning and execution of relocating the corporate data centre.
- Collaborated with SAN Lead in installing, configuring and testing Qlogic HBAs attached to HP EVA SANs.
- Collaborated with SAN Lead in LUN creation, presentation and replication.
- Played a key role in planning disaster recovery using configuration management and the Red Hat Cluster Suite.
- Initiated consulting and collaboration meetings with other departments to provide better service.
- Provide applications and documentation to allow the 24/7 operations department to troubleshoot and correct problems without needing to page other employees.
- Mentored junior team members.

System Administrator Voicegenie Technologies October 2000 - January 2006

- Over 150 servers in a mixed Solaris, Linux (Red Hat and Debian) and Windows environment.
- Lead administrator of Linux and Solaris servers.
- Honoured as VoiceGenie's most dedicated engineer at annual team building event.
- Continuously did more with less to help this dot-com startup thrive during and after the dot-bomb bubble.
- Provided superior services and support to allow VoiceGenie to have continuous growth for 6 consecutive quarters in the highly competitive voice technology industry.
- Maintained, upgraded and repaired IBM, SUN, white box and HP chassis.
- Provided 24/7 tier 2 customer service to demanding telco carrier companies world wide.
- Designed and built new email and web services to help marketing continuously reach more and more potential customers.
- Mentored product architects on Linux kernel building and maintenance.
- Mentored university co-ops on technologies and system administration.
- Introduced VoiceGenie's first production 2.6 Linux kernel.
- Introduced intrusion detection, encryption, isolated networks and other security policies and procedures.
- Authored instructional documentation for both employee and customer use.
- Created disaster recovery servers and policies.

System Administrator/CAD Designer F&K Manufacturing June 1994 - September 2000

- Over 30 servers in a mixed SCO UNIX, Linux, Novell and Windows environment.
- Designed and built the company's first computer network.
- Connected new expansion plants using line of site wireless technology.
- Team leader on the implementation of Syspro's Encore Materials Resource Planning system over a period of 10 months.
- Created the company's first CAD station to cut costs by allowing in house design.
- Authored policies and procedures to help the company become ISO 9002 compliant.
- Helped to maintain ISO 9002 compliance by becoming an internal auditor.
- Created the company's first EDI data exchange with automotive supply chain customers to allow faster MRP planning.
- Created the company's first Internet connection using Linux to allow electronic collaboration and data sharing with customers and vendors.
- Created and maintained company's data backup policy.

Education

Loyalist College
Belleville, ON

- Electronic Engineering Technician 1994
- Mechanical Engineering Technologist 1993

Online Papers

- "Enterprise system administration using configuration management"
<http://watson-wilson.ca/blog/ent-sysadmin.html>
- "Cfengine Cookbook"
<http://watson-wilson.ca/blog/cfcookbook.html>
- "Clustering with Redhat"
<http://watson-wilson.ca/blog/db2-cluster.html>