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Objectives

- To work for an organization that prioritizes quality service to its community;
- To work for an organization that values the expertise of its own staff;
- To work in a cooperative environment where colleagues are all working towards a common goal;
- To be the best systems analyst that I can be, in a mutually beneficial association with an organization that makes valuable contributions to society.

Special Skills

- Languages: fluently bilingual in English and French;
- Very strong analytical skills with hardware, software, and networking protocols;
- Expert knowledge of Unix and Linux operating systems and related applications;
- Expert knowledge of 802.11 wireless networking and computer and network security;
- Expert knowledge of programming languages: C, Perl, shell scripting;
- Expert knowledge of network protocols and server software:
  - SMTP (Sendmail, MIMEDefang, SpamAssassin, Majordomo)
  - NNTP (INN, Cleanfeed)
  - HTTP (Apache, Perl, PHP)
  - FTP (Wu-FTPd)
  - DNS (ISC Bind)
  - DHCP (ISC DHCPd)
  - RADIUS (FreeRadius)
  - SQL (PostgreSQL)
- Expert knowledge of network management and monitoring software:
  - Nagios (service monitoring)
  - NetDisco (network discovery and management)
  - MRTG (traffic grapher)
  - Flow-Tools (NetFlow analyzer)
- Good knowledge of the professional typesetting package LaTeX;
- Strong writing, grammar, and linguistic skills.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Unix Systems and Wireless Network Analyst

Concordia University, Montréal, Qc.
April 1997 – Present

I was hired for the summer of 1997 by Concordia University's IITS Department (formerly Computing Services), where I started as an assistant to the system administrators, writing tools, reviewing and writing documentation, and answering user questions. At the end of the summer, I was given a full year contract, and became a junior sysadmin, following which I became a permanent employee of the department and eventually a senior member of the Unix Systems and Software Group.

During this time I acquired skills in programming using scripting languages, improved my C programming skills and my ability to troubleshoot and debug existing programs and systems, and honed documentation and organizational skills. The team I was part of was a highly skilled group that strove to always provide excellent service and communication to its community, and I was very proud to be the newest member of that group.

In the years since, I acquired progressively more responsibility in that group, taking over major communications services such as the (still operational, though now less visible than it once was) netnews service and the University's email service. I have been the system administrator for systems running University-critical database applications, such as our financial information system, our advancement and alumni system, and some systems less critical, though more visible to the community, such as the library information system and the University's main "public" access computer system.

More recently, I was asked to take on a new role as the administrator of our then fledgling wireless network service. The service had been in operation for a couple of years already, but was quickly outgrowing its existing infrastructure, and the department had lost its only wireless networking specialist.

I took on the new role with great enthusiasm, trained colleagues to take over the systems and services that I would leave behind in order to focus on the wireless networking service, and set out not only to help the service grow, but to improve its usability to our community and its reliability, and to better integrate it with our other existing services. These things and more have been accomplished.

I created monitoring tools, and adapted tools used for monitoring wired network components to keep a virtual eye on the University's wireless networking service and to report in the event of service failures. These tools also help us identify where we might need to improve the service's capacity, for example, or where we have equipment deployed that is underused. My hope, in the end, is that I have helped create a service that our community feels they can consistently count on for their network access needs, whether in the classroom, in the library, or in labs and lounges.

During my time in the IITS department, I have continued to improve my knowledge of computer and network security issues, and have created scripts and programs to help monitor system log files, and control the security of our more sensitive systems.

I have also made some contributions to different open-source software projects, and am very pleased that at least one still actively-maintained project (the slrn news reader) maintains functionality that I personally contributed. I do expect to continue contributing to the open-source community, both in an advisory fashion (which I actively do on a regular basis) and in the form of code or documentation contributions as time permits and as I encounter the need for such contributions.

Non-Destructive Testing Technician **DNL Technologies, Montréal, Qc (formerly Monac International, Winnipeg, Mb) 1993 – 1997**

From 1993 to 1997, I worked with DNL Technologies, a small engineering company specializing in non-destructive testing of steel structures, where I designed and assembled data-acquisition computers based on the Zilog Z-80 microprocessor. I also acquired training and became the company's specialist in the application of strain-gauge technology, and designed and created some of our printed circuit boards.

Later, while still working at DNL Technologies, I designed, implemented and managed a small peer-to-peer Windows-95 network with file and printer sharing. At the time, this was a worthwhile achievement for a company as small as we were. I also wrote data collection and monitoring software, using a combination of C and assembly language, which I'm proud to say was included in a package sold to and used by the New York City Department of Transportation.

Additional History

Even as a small child I was fascinated by machinery and technology. After a somewhat shaky start as a youngster taking apart household appliances to understand how they are put together and function, I graduated with honours in 1988 from Winnipeg's Technical-Vocational High School, specializing in electronics, and I received the "highest achievement" award from the electronics department. Over the following years, I worked in various areas as an electronics specialist, particularly in the entertainment industry, where I operated and repaired lighting and sound equipment, as well as musical instruments.

Computers and electronics are not only career paths but also hobbies for me, and in my spare time I taught myself C programming, as well as assembly-language programming for the Intel 80x86 and Zilog Z-80 microprocessors. I began experimenting with using the Unix operating system late in 1995, and very soon thereafter switched to using Linux full-time on my computer at home.

My first experience as a Unix system administrator was gained on a volunteer basis, administering a DEC Ultrix system for the Concordia University Computer Users' Group. Through active participation in the concordia.dept.comp-services.help (now concordia.dept.iits.help) newsgroup, where I answered computer-related questions from fellow Concordia University students, I managed to attract the attention of the Computing Services department's Unix Systems and Software Group, which I would soon join.

Personal Interests and Hobbies

Some of my personal interests contribute to my work, as I continue to use and improve a small network of Linux systems at home. These systems provide mail service, web service, and DNS service for a small number of personal domains. These systems operate behind a network-address translating firewall/gateway that I have assembled on a small computer also running Linux. I also have a closed-circuit television system that supplements the home security system, and a dedicated music recording workstation, both of which make use of some very well written open-source software running on Linux. All my home computer systems are carefully managed and provide very reliable service.

I'm also an amateur musician (I play guitar) and recording engineer, and I play hockey in an adult recreational league.

Why I Should Be Considered For Your Organization

- I'm an intelligent person who works hard and believes very strongly in doing a job completely and correctly.
- I have very strong analytical and problem-solving skills and am able to create clear and accurate documentation.
- I strive to gain a thorough understanding of systems and services for which I am responsible, which helps ensure that I am able to respond competently to problem reports and the changing needs of a dynamic user community.
- I am a cooperative and enthusiastic member of any team that sets high standards for the quality of its work.