Andrew Vant

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SUMMARY

Systems engineer and programmer with 20 years experience. Specialties include Python, C#, configuration management, Git wrangling, ops toolsmithing, systems archeology, debugging instrumentation, and documentation.

SKILLS

Each category ordered by recency of experience:

- Languages: Python, C#/.NET, SQL, Bash, Powershell, C, D.
- Systems: Linux Debian/Ubuntu/RHEL, Windows Server 2003-2019
- Infrastructure: Configuration management/IaC (mostly Saltstack), cloud services (mostly Rackspace, some AWS), virtualization, Active Directory
- Databases: MS SQL, MongoDB, Cassandra
- Misc: Git, Saltstack

EXPERIENCE

Systems Engineer I-IV, Rackspace, Duluth GA   *2013-2024*

Despite the job title, in this role I've acted as engineer, DBA, and developer at different times.

Started as a Windows engineer in a hybrid environment, tasked with cleaning up and automating an inconsistent production environment and database. Later expanded to managing Linux systems.

Maintained the engineering end of Rackspace Cloud Backup nearly singlehandedly for several years. Acted as lead engineer when the team was later expanded. Designed and deployed infrastructure for the second generation of the API. Cut operating costs significantly by virtualizing most of the new environment.

With the most pressing infrastructure issues fixed, moved to more development work. Debugged API issues in C# .NET. Rewrote update-management tools for deployment on customer systems. Acted as local Python and Git guru.

Systems Administrator, Medquest Associates, Alpharetta GA   *2009-2013*

Maintained Active Directory in an MS Windows environment. Maintained company backups and, later, redesigned the backup system to improve efficiency. Served as local scripting expert for the admin team. Handled server repairs and outages. Managed Citrix servers. Provided 3rd-level support.

MISC

I do some open source work in my spare time. My most notable contribution is probably adding NNTPS support to the Python standard library – though the parent module has since been deprecated.

Most of my professional work is in private repositories, but I have a few personal projects for which the code is public. The most complex is romtool, a Python program for manipulating archaic game binaries; it can serve as a code and documentation sample. My Stack Exchange profile and some of my bug reports may also be of interest.

Interests outside IT include chess, go, speculative fiction, and video games. I play Kerbal Space Program on Hard, and I play Factorio on Marathon Deathworld; this may mean something to somebody on your technical team.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

PC Technician, Best Value Computers, Pensacola FL   *2005-2008*

Diagnosed and repaired PCs and laptops for the general public. Built and maintained in-house systems. Customer backup and recovery.

Technical Support, East End Trading Company, NYC   *2000-2003*

Maintained computer software on workstations, installations, upgrades, general troubleshooting.

Volunteer, Suffolk Aviation Academy, Shirley NY   *1999-2000*

Maintained flight simulator computers and equipment.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- C++
- Citrix
- Database management
- FreeNAS/TrueNAS
- Haproxy
- HTML/CSS
- IIS
- Infrastructure automation
- Iptables
- iSCSI
- Kibana
- Javascript
- Jinja
- Memcached
- Mongodb
- MS SQL
- .NET
- NFS
- Nginx
- Pelican
- Programming
- Rackspace Cloud
- Repose Valve
- System administration
- System engineering
- YAML

EDUCATION

- 2001-2003 State University of New York, Stony Brook, NY
- 2000-2001 Dowling College, Oakdale, NY