Daniel Linder

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SUMMARY

Experienced professional with extensive engineering experience and strong mentoring skills looking for challenging and productive environments to enhance and grow organizations responsible for systems and infrastructure automation using DevSecOps tools, principles, and practices.

I have a strong background in Unix, networking and IT security in general. I contribute a strong enterprise engineering and development mindset to the teams I work with. Mentoring and coaching are strengths noted by my co-workers, managers, and customers.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Architect and Engineer of two **Ansible Automation Platform** and **Ansible Tower** deployment, clusters in multiple highly regulated government environments and satellite locations, and to three geographically separate sites with automated failover for disaster recovery.
- Championed the use of the **Ansible** configuration tool as a corporate standard, leading recurring "working groups" and guilds as well as benefiting reliable system deployment.
- Engineered the automation of the **Red Hat** and **Windows** OS images (both virtual templates and ISO) using **Hashicorp Packer** to reduce the timespan between vendor release and initial testing. Reduction of misconfiguration and enabling rapid deployment of new template images to all datacenters worldwide.
- Introduced, implemented, and documented best practices using source code repository for code deployment as well as **Infrastructure as Code** solutions.

EXPERIENCE

Sr. Systems Automation Engineer, Peraton
Bellevue, NE - September 2021 - Current
Systems Engineer, TEKSystems / Perspecta
Omaha, NE— April 2021 - Current

As DevSecOps Team Lead, I spearhead initiatives to expand DevSecOps practices within STRATCOM IT, focusing on:

➤ Identified critical enterprise automation gap and subsequently led the evaluation, procurement, and phased deployment strategy for Red Hat Satellite and Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform (RHAAP), successfully petitioning government stakeholders for project prioritization.

➤ Engineered an infrastructure-as-code (IaC) process utilizing Hashicorp Packer to create RHEL-8 VM templates for internal cloud infrastructure, significantly reducing deployment times for RHAAP systems while facilitating broader RHEL-8 migration in preparation for RHEL-9.

➤ My team deployed Red Hat Satellites on RHEL-8 that achieved exemplary results during the 2025 cybersecurity review, establishing it as one of the organization's gold standard systems for compliance and security.

➤ Designed and implemented comprehensive system automations that streamlined operations by converting manual hardening procedures and security configuration steps into consistent, repeatable processes.

➤ Established myself as a mentor for colleagues on Ansible and advanced automation concepts tailored to their specific configuration needs, and championing broader adoption of GitOps practices and standardized use of GitLab/Nexus3 repositories.

➤ Lead weekly "Unix System Automation" meetings to drive continuous improvement, and now heading the "CI/CD Guild" team (2025) focused on expanding GitOps implementation through GitLab pipeline integration with RHAAP.

- Ansible Automation Platform
- Sonatype Nexus3
- OS and Application STIG automation
- GitLab
- RHEL 8 / 9
- Hashicorp Packer

Systems Engineer, TEKSystems / Northrop Grumman
Omaha, NE— January 2020 - April 2021

Systems engineer on the SEMS-III engineering team - Engineer on the implementation work for the AFW-WEBS weather systems. Mentored junior engineers and interns, provided engineering leadership within the project, and produced project status communications for leadership and the customer. Initiated monthly Automation Guild meetings to promote better automation practices and introduce co-workers to the Ansible tool and promote better automation practices in general.

Senior Automation and Systems Engineer, Intrado (West) Corporation
Omaha, NE— February 2012 - January 2020

Senior Automation Engineer on the CI/CD Infrastructure team (2018-2020) - Designed a scalable, enterprise-ready collection of CI/CD tools. This collection of tools is set up in a geographically distributed fashion to better serve users across the globe while providing a high degree of disaster recovery preparation. The Ansible Tower and Jenkins systems are all maintained and updated on a quarterly basis by Ansible automation scripts designed to minimize downtime of the platforms.
- Ansible Tower
- JFrog Artifactory
- GitHub
- Jenkins

Responsibilities and Accomplishments
- Design and implement using Agile and SaFE methodologies
- Assist Information Security and Governance teams with audits and collaborate with stakeholders to remediate findings
- Lead monthly company-wide "Ansible Working Group" mentoring user group
- Fully automated base OS configurations for RedHat 6 and 7 systems
- Upcoming projects will integrate system deployment automation with networking and storage

Senior Systems Engineer on the Cloud Infrastructure engineering team (2013-2018) - Responsible for the design and configuration of the company standard Linux systems and the automation to configure systems in the field (manual and cloud provisioned systems). Serve as a point of escalation and mentorship to the Unix operations teams, as well as collaboration with the networking and Information Security teams to further automate networking and security-related requirements.
- Ansible
- Python
- ISO Customization
- OpenLDAP / Red Hat Directory Server
- VMWare suite
- PowerShell
- VM Workstation
- Red Hat Satellite
- Packer
- Shell
- Splunk

Responsibilities and Accomplishments
- Lead engineer automating configuration and deployment of Hadoop cluster servers
- Design of secure documented OS deployments for use in China datacenter

- Rebuilt Linux installation process to align with modern automation practices
- Lead quarterly licensing true-up effort with Red Hat to ensure compliance and better understand company growth needs
- Primary contact point with networking and information security teams for advanced automation and configuration concerns.

Systems Architect (2012-2013) - Provide guidance to IT teams to align with business needs and direction. Primary projects included revamping our monitoring and alerting systems, improving CMDB services, integration of those with existing service desk systems.

Responsibilities and Accomplishments
- Lead the architecture research and design of a monitoring and reporting solution to replace aging and technically limited legacy systems. Selection based on an 8-month evaluation of business needs shortcomings leading to a five vendor proof of concept demo. Worked with engineering teams to evaluate the top three and select the primary solution.
- Successfully lobbied for the purchase of additional supporting tools necessary for wider enterprise benefit, specifically the HP Asset Management suite of tools to address a gap in the legacy CMDB system.
- Evaluated and documented business-focused use cases for many use-case specific solutions

Systems Engineer, Maryville Technologies
Omaha, NE (HQ: St. Louis, MO) — November 2003- February 2012

Systems Engineer and Developer - Lead developer of system monitoring and management tool (eNav) and senior customer support engineer. Regular on-site meetings with customers for pre and post-sale engineering, installation, and maintenance.

- Perl
- Cisco
- Subversion
- Sun Solaris
- HP OpenView
- CentOS / RedHat

Skills
<u>Technical</u>

Ansible - Introduced the **Ansible** automation tool to West IT for server maintenance and configuration. Lead the monthly "Ansible Working Group" to continue to evangelize and educate teams on using and advancing their abilities. Ansible playbooks are used to configure our systems deployed using the **VMWare suite of tools** for consistency and easier maintenance.

RHAAP - Introduced **Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform (RHAAP)** to the ITCC-II environment to replace the capabilities Puppet system was performing for the legacy RHEL 7 systems. This also lays the foundation for future system automations utilizing Infrastructure as Code (IaC) and Configuration as Code (CaC) concepts alongside legacy system deployment practices when required. The AAP deployment is architected as a minimal viable product (MVP) deployment that will expand as needs are defined and capacity is desired and procured.

Red Hat - RHCSA 2016, **presented at Red Hat Summit 2019 "West Corporation - A Digital Transformation Journey"**.

Git - Introduced the use of source code revision control tools to the Engineering team, ultimately migrated to Git using the enterprise **GitHub** solution at West, and the **GitLab** solution at STRATCOM.

OS - Designing and enhancing the **RedHat** and **Windows** base OS images used within West IT. Responsible for addressing monthly patching and security findings. Also extensively familiar with **Debian, Ubuntu, Fedora, and CentOS**.

Tower -	Designed and installed **Ansible Tower**, three sites (each a cluster) for disaster recovery and redundancy, designed production, and sandbox environments. Both environments are used by developers and treated as production so they can test in a production-equal environment. Automated monthly update of all Tower nodes with a staggered upgrade (lab, sandbox, production); Ansible Tower had less than 2 hours of unplanned downtime in the two years I maintained it.
Virtualization -	Engineer on the WestCloud team for the past four years, extensive familiarity with VMware tools such as **VRA, vSphere, and VMWare Workstation**.
Code -	**Bash, Python, YAML, JSON, Perl, and PowerShell**, etc.

Leadership

Communicator -	**Lead the Ansible Working Group** to educate and share experiences and best practices, regularly has 30-50 attendees. Keeping lines of communications from the executives to the operations engineers, and fostering that inside and between teams. A regular speaker at the West internal "*Digital Transformation*" presentation meeting.
CI/CD -	**Lead engineer on the "CI/CD" project**, primary engineer on Ansible Tower, secondary on GitHub, Artifactory, and Jenkins. Over the past 18 months, we onboarded over 250 different platforms (external and internal programs and services). On average, application releases are up 100% YoY, 80% reduction in "Sev-1" vulnerabilities for CI/CD platforms.
Mentor -	**Mentoring junior engineers and operations team members**. I work with them throughout the week to help them work through issues and serve as a soundboard for new ideas.
Advocate -	Through my work with Ansible and our CI/CD project I have been asked by my management to take a primary responsible role in our **corporate automation effort**. This includes working with and mentoring groups and individuals from diverse teams such as networking, sustaining operations, development, and customer support.

Education

- University of Nebraska Lincoln - Bachelors Computer Engineering 1994
- Red Hat Certified Systems Administrator - July 2016
- Sun Solaris Administrator - 2004
- IBM AIX Administrator - 1996
- SCO Unix Administrator - 1997