Zach Bennett

(205) 588-4882
zach@zachbennett.me
https://zachbennett.me
https://linkedin.com/in/zbennett15

Fueled by a deep passion for Linux, I have transformed my IT service desk experience into a hands-on journey of mastering Linux systems in my home lab. I am eager to channel this drive and expertise into a Linux Systems Administrator role, where I can fully immerse myself in the world of Linux and contribute to cutting-edge environments.

Home Lab Projects:

Automating Multiple WordPress Deployments with Docker Project
- This displayed expertise in automating the deployment and management of multiple WordPress instances using Docker containers. It involved setting up a Docker environment, managing WordPress containers, and using Docker Compose for automation. Key skills demonstrated include containerization, automation, and scalable web application management.

Virtualization and Automation Project
- Set up a virtualization and monitoring system using Xen Orchestra, Rudder, and Observium. Configured Xen Orchestra on the XCP-ng hypervisor for VM control, resource management, and automated backups. Rudder was used to automate configuration management, ensuring consistent security standards across all VMs. Observium provided real-time monitoring, allowing me to track performance and address issues quickly. This project honed my skills in virtualization, automation, monitoring, and backup management.

TrueNAS Scale Project
- Integrated TrueNAS Scale into my virtual infrastructure to serve as a centralized storage solution for backups, installation media, file shares, iSCSI drives, and storage repositories. Implemented off-site backups from the TrueNAS system to ensure data redundancy and disaster recovery. Optimized the setup to enhance data accessibility, reliability, and efficiency across the entire virtual environment.

OPNsense and Network Security Project
- Managed and configured OPNsense for comprehensive network security and infrastructure management, including routing, DHCP, DNS, and Wireguard VPN. Implemented NGINX as a reverse proxy to route traffic to internet-facing Ubuntu servers, centralizing SSL certificate management behind a single endpoint for enhanced security. This setup streamlined network operations, secured communications, and ensured reliable access to critical services while maintaining robust security protocols.

Employment:

Baxters North America – East Bernstadt, KY   2021 – Current
Group Service Desk Analyst

My background in managing enterprise Microsoft environments equips me with transferable skills highly relevant to Linux Systems Administration.

- **Identity and Access Management:** Managed Azure Active Directory, including user provisioning, group management, and security policy enforcement. Ready to apply these IAM principles to Linux-based directory services such as OpenLDAP.
- **Device and Application Management:** Administered devices and apps within Intune, enforcing policies and security across devices. Created scripts to deploy several Windows applications via the Company Portal in Intune. Prepared to translate this experience into managing Linux servers using automation tools like Ansible and Puppet for configuration and compliance.
- **Collaboration and Productivity Tools:** Managed Microsoft 365 services, optimizing and securing enterprise applications. These skills are directly applicable to administering Linux-based collaboration tools like Nextcloud, with a focus on user management and service optimization.

NTT Data Services – Birmingham, AL   2016 – 2021
Field Tech Senior Associate

Provided technical support and system maintenance in a fast-paced, customer-focused environment, developing a solid foundation for a transition to Linux Systems Administration.

- **Troubleshooting & Support:** Diagnosed hardware, software, and network issues across multiple OS, including Linux.
- **User Account Management:** Managed user accounts, permissions, and access controls in Active Directory. Experience in account provisioning, relevant for Linux IAM (sudoers and user groups).
- **System Maintenance:** Performed system updates and software installations, essential for Linux server upkeep.
- **Hardware Optimization and Compliance:** Repurposed hardware by installing Ubuntu Desktop OS to resolve security issues with a set of new Intel Compute Stick computers that could not be updated to a compliant version of Windows, ensuring compliance with company policies and saving the company money.
- **Network Configuration:** Supported network setup and troubleshooting, ready to apply to Linux networking (firewalls and interfaces). Resolved connectivity issues, translating to managing Linux network services.

Education: Obtained an Associate of Applied Science in Computer Network Systems from ITT Technical Institute in 2009.