

james seward

systems engineer

contact

Taunton, Somerset, UK

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code

Extensive experience
Python, PHP, TCL, git
Experienced
Ruby, sh/bash/zsh
SQL, Perl, Java
HTML \leq 4, CSS \leq 2
ObjC (iOS)
BASIC (since 1984)
Learning
Rust, node.js

systems

Amazon Web Services
Chef, Puppet, Ansible
FreeBSD
OS X/mac OS
Linux incl. embedded
Win desktop \geq 3.11
Win server \geq NT 4.0
VMware ESX \geq 2.5

technology

Extensive experience
Networks & protocols
Computer architecture
Software architecture
Virtualisation
CI tools
Datadog, monitoring &
alerting
MySQL, SQLite
Web and email servers
Experienced
MongoDB, Redis
Storage, VoIP
AD & Exchange
Dell blade servers

employment

Jan 2016–

AOL/OATH

London, United Kingdom (Full-time remote worker)

Senior Systems Engineer

AOL provides content and advertising (and a small amount of dialup). Part of the Platforms team, working on infrastructure used by the advertising platform including public-facing services and internal data processing. Helped developers design well-architected AWS environments, migrating platforms from AOL's private cloud to AWS, and championed good development and operations practices.

- Responsible for migration of several large platforms from private “static” cloud to multi-region, multi-availability zone autoscaling AWS environments, reducing costs and increasing performance and reliability.
- Migrated generic Jenkins jobs to pipelines stored in source control.
- Converted several platforms from long-running instances with Chef deployment to Packer-built immutable infrastructure.
- Delivered internal training on Amazon Web Services best practices and advanced use of git.
- Guided monitoring configuration to reduce unnecessary paging.

2014–Dec '15

MOONFRUIT

London, United Kingdom

SysOps Administrator

Moonfruit provides build-it-yourself website hosting on their SiteMaker platform. Part of a team which runs the office, staging and production environments based both on-premises and remotely. Started modernising the environment including improving the Puppet configuration, introducing automated testing and integrating with external services including Datadog and PagerDuty.

- Managed and performed the deployment of new web platforms into AWS.
- Provided input to development teams to modernise product design.
- Evangelised Continuous Deployment with the development teams.
- Created and educated the team on CI tests for the Puppet environment.
- Looked after the Mac desktop & laptop estate.

2013–2014

RAZORFISH

London, United Kingdom

DevOps Engineer

Razorfish is a full-service digital agency, with the London office leading the company for use of Cloud technologies for deploying customer projects.

- Rewrote in-house scripts from Bash to Python to increase utility and reliability. Functions include assigning IPs and volumes to instances in Amazon Web Services and tidying unused resources up to reduce costs.
- Responsible for building hosting platform for a major customer site, including assisting the developers with designing the environment to behave in the Cloud correctly.
- Began investigation of CloudFormation as a possible technology to replace in-house deployment system which was no longer maintained.

2006–2013 **AMULET HOTKEY** Devon; London, United Kingdom
Systems Administrator; Solutions Consultant
Amulet Hotkey is a designer and manufacturer of KVM switches and remoting equipment, most notably as blade workstations using PC-over-IP based on the Dell M-series blade and M1000e chassis. Their solutions are mainly used by the financial services industry but are gaining interest in other markets such as defence. Provided pre-sales support and solution design/planning, performed installations and then was the point of escalation for the support team. Interfaced with the engineering team to help plan and design new products.

- Responsible for technical design and implementation on multiple million-pound projects.
- Frequent independent travel to customer sites around Europe, Africa and Australasia, including a four-week install of a trading floor in Sydney.
- Created an OS X kernel extension to fix a graphics driver issue so it could be remoted, enabling sales into the Media & Entertainment market.

2001–2006 **GREY MATTER** Ashburton, United Kingdom
Tech Support/Internal Developer/Systems Administrator
Grey Matter is a software reseller based in the South West with a focus on development tools and helping developers understand technologies. They produce a catalogue/magazine for which the staff write technical articles.

- Wrote a number of articles for HardCopy magazine on subjects such as VMware and .NET's runtime.
- Delivered VMware training to customers including the BBC and Financial Times.

education

1998–2001 **Bachelor** of Computer Science (Hons.) (2.1) Exeter University
Including modules in concurrent programming, AI and networking

1992–1998 **A-levels** in Computer Science (A), Maths, Physics Aylesbury Grammar School
AS-levels in French and Ancient History
10 GCSEs including French taken in one year (A), Maths (A*) and 7 others at C or higher

qualifications and training

2013 **MongoDB Essentials Training Course** MongoDB

2011 **VMware VCP 5.0** VMware

2005–2006 **Microsoft MCP** Microsoft
Implementing, Managing, and Maintaining a Windows Server 2003 Network Infrastructure
Managing and Maintaining a Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Environment
Installing, Configuring, and Administering Microsoft Windows XP Professional
Designing, Deploying and Managing a Network Solution for SMB.

2004 **VMware VCP 2.5; VCP number 514** VMware

interests and hobbies

- coding: Python-based monitoring software with >100 stars on github plus other open source utilities; previously several apps in the App Store, various Windows apps published online since 1998; artificial intelligence, automation; knowledge sharing — I enjoy writing long-form tutorial articles for my website
- systems: FreeBSD/zfs storage server at home, IRC servers, colo server handling email and websites for friends, tinkering with a Raspberry Pi, own servers, desktops and laptops managed by Ansible
- hardware and software architecture, OS kernel design
- cars and motorsport, including working on my own car
- languages (lower-tier GCSE in Japanese from Exeter College); cycling; badminton