Teran McKinney's Resume

DevOps Engineer / Linux Systems Engineer / Site Reliability Engineer / Struggling Startup Founder

Eagle, Idaho or Remote

About

I focus on Linux systems engineering, devops, SRE, Linux distribution development, cryptocurrency, Python, and Golang. I also have experience with networking, security, and FreeBSD.

I worked in corporate jobs up until 2017 when I started working for myself and doing under the table remote work here and there. I have a startup called SporeStack, described in more detail further down. I have some other projects as well, but unfortunately not making as much money as I'd like. I do like working for myself but it's quite challenging having to wear every hat and not having any guaranteed earnings. As such, I'm hesitantly open to corporate work again. Either remote or near Boise.

I'm a hard worker and a fast learner. I do tend to be somewhat philosophically minded and get distinterested in fields that don't make sense to me even if they pay well. This is exacerbated with the endless stream of barely value adding companies each claiming that they are changing the world. I like the flexibility of remote work but also the social interaction of coming into an office, so a little torn there.

I'm not someone for every company. Most companies talk about wanting "diversity," but most just mean race and not ideas. I don't fit in everywhere and I'm okay with that. But I think for the right people I am very good to work with. I'm nearly as experiened as a grey beard but with a lot more energy to get stuff done. I never went to college and learned almost all of what I know searching for answers, figuring things out myself, and on the job experience with brilliant coworkers.

As far as non-tech work goes, I have an interest and some experience with motorcycles and mechanics. I'd love to do machining although my payable rate at such a job would be far less than my tech skills, so it'd be hard to justify even though I'd love to work with my hands more. I have minimal electronics experience (like making a single transistor amplifier), but follow EEV Blog. As far as machining goes, I follow AVE and This Old Tony. So I'm informed just enough to be dangerous.

Objective

Find work at company that I don't hate. In such a job I'd like to be learning, growing, and getting paid enough that I can eventually purchase land to grow potatoes on and live off the grid.

Code

I prefer to let my code and projects do most of the talking.

- https://github.com/teran-mckinney
- https://github.com/sporestack
- https://github.com/vagabondworkstation

Current and prior experience

Founder of SporeStack

- January 2017 - Present

- Remote

Virtualized servers for cryptocurrency, including Bitcoin and Monero among others. API driven, no accounts. Also offers hidden hosting where the VMs don't know where they are and there's multiple layers of privacy in finding even which host they might be on. All done over Tor.

Python 3 library and CLI, also a web launcher.

Security focused Golang Developer for Anonymous, Shadowy Figures

- July 2019 - November 2019
- Remote

Surprise, surprise, the anonymous, shadowy figures vanished and so did my paycheck. I won't say what I was working on, but it involved Bitcoin and Golang. I might have gotten the months wrong here, I can't remember.

Security focused Linux Developer for Anonymous, Shadowy Figure

- March 2017 - March 2019
- Remote

If you got out of prison with $300 in your pocket to buy a laptop with, how would you get access to your data and crypto millions after all of your physical assets were seized? Without getting caught, of course.

This job was mostly making prototypes and didn't see any real use, but I was given some pretty absurdly interesting/difficult problems to try and solve. This also spawned the Vagabond Workstation which shares code with SporeStack. Per-VM Torification, as few links between VMs and the host as possible, deterministic identities, Bitcoin, Bitmessage, etc.

I'm still working on this here and there, albeit unpaid.

Systems Engineer at Gincoin

- 2018 - January 2019ish
- Romania/Remote

SporeStack's whale customer wanted me to work for them. I helped here and there with stateless DNS hostnames (hostnameomatic), Kubernetes, and Ansible. Unfortunately, the company folded despite the incredible start. I did make some great friends in the process. If you want to feel better about your drinking problem, just go to Romania. And do try the eggplant, it's actually quite good.

Software Engineer (Basically DevOps/SRE) at Matterport

- September 2015 - August 2016

- Mountain View / Sunnyvale California

- Built out infrastructure for new Django dotcom site. Developers deploy to production.

- Setup Nginx nodes for layer 7 routing to split traffic between dotcom site Wordpress and Django environments on a page-by-page basis.

- Heavily refactored Saltstack code to be more idempotent, have less lines, and be generally faster and more consistent.

- Helped design and led implementation on a static asset store.

- Wrote a simple health check aggregator to aggregate multiple apps and checks into one endpoint for the ELB to hit.

I loved this job. It was an actual devops type role where the central devops team had members attached to the different development teams and worked to enable developers to push to production.

Systems Engineer at ThousandEyes

- September 2014 - August 2015

- San Francisco, California

- Wrote kilopass as a deterministic password generator.

- Wrote a web.py application to help with server bootstrapping, using PXE and iPXE. (Later refactored and rewritten in Golang and made public as "Shoelaces" after I left)

- Brought the physical infrastructure to a point where server bootstrapping was from a PXE boot, hostname, base profile configuration, and then signing the key in Puppet.

- Had even small details like BIOS settings and sysctl values managed by Puppet.

Was involved with running about a thousand virtualized servers, two half full-ish racks in the office, and four racks in a datacenter across the street. Most of the physical servers ran Xen and a number of VMs underneath them.

Linux Ops Admin II at Rackspace

- May 2013 - September 2014

- San Antonio, Texas

- Acted as an escalation point for issues in the Cloud Server environment. Primarily for single customer impacting issues.

- Wrote and hosted tools with web.py for support teams to use.

- Wrote a ticket bot which would inspect hosts of servers mentioned in new tickets.

- Wrote patches for Openstack Nova which were merged upstream.

Cloud Servers at this point was almost entirely OpenStack using XenServer (I hope the only major OpenStack XenServer deployment). I would look into networking issues, try to figure out if an issue was in our infrasturcture or in a customer's server outside of our domain, and tried to help streamline frontline support as much as possible.

Linux Systems Administrator II at Rackspace

- October 2010 - July 2012

- San Antonio, Texas

- Top point of escalation in support for network issues in the Cloud Server environment.

- Debugged all sorts of issues in our Xen environment.

- Worked with "unmanaged" customers and provided excellent support.

- Helped with the "Dragon Migrations" of 99,000 customer VMs being rsynced between hosts over 2.5 months. This was for a fairly industry wide security vulnerability which I can elaborate on.

I absolutely loved this job. My first time around at Rackspace I worked with the Slicehost derived VM stack that used Debian and Xen. We did start to use XenServer as well, initially only for Windows. I did frontline customer support via ticket, chat, and phone. I started as a Linux Systems Administrator I and was promoted some time while working there.

Linux Distribution Developer (Icadyptes)

- November 2007 - 2011

I developed an Arch Linux fork tailored to my own use. Recompiled from i686 to i486 and made it as IPv6-by-default as I could. Very lightweight, ran it on a i486 which I had hosting dynamic content linked to on the front page of Digg.com.

Website support at LET Group

- October 2009 - March 2010

Updated websites with content and other changes, through email and later ticket support. I worked with PHP, HTML, CSS, and sometimes Javascript.

Linux Distribution Developer (ZenServer)

- December 2006 - October 2007

Forked Zenwalk (itself, a fork of Slackware) and maintained a server-oriented distribution.

Volunteer (Trans World Radio)

- 2006 - 2007
- Cary, NC

Slackware, Mambo, PHP, MySQL, general helpdesk help, lent a hand in the datacenter.

Skills / Technologies

This is not an exhaustive list, just some bullet points to give you an idea of what I have experience with.

- Linux, FreeBSD: Server, desktop, laptop usage
- Golang
- Python
- SaltStack
- Puppet (but forgot most of it)
- Xen
- Qemu/KVM
- OpenStack (been a while)
- Tor
- Bitcoin
- x86 Hardware
- Racking servers, usually without the rack falling over
- HTML/CSS/Javascript, but I'm not good with it

Wrapping up

Thanks for reading, or for aggressively skimming. I know hiring can be a pain and involves a lot of trust. I hope I've given you an honest idea of what I can do and perhaps what I'd be like to work with. Generally speaking, I'd rather give you the bad news first and know the worst case scenarios are accounted for. But anyway, maybe you're seething in anger as this is the tenth absurd resume you've read all day while your team is desperately understaffed and your boss is about ready to fire you. In which case I will relay the kind words of my Norwegian friend Gunnar: "Joy is the shadow from pain." He used it describing the great possibility of dropping a transmission on my head while working underneath my old Landcruiser, but perhaps it's somehow relevant for you as well.