

**Blake R. Swopes**  
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## **Executive Summary**

Linux System Administrator with more than 7 years of experience running mail, DNS and web servers, SQL databases, LAMP development, SMB, CIFS and NFS file servers, load balancing, virtualization, and various open source applications.

## **Certifications**

### *Red Hat*

RHCE – December 2004 (Certificate #803004426413328)  
RHCT – December 2004

### *Linux Professional Institute (LPI ID: LPI000006445)*

Level 2 – March 2004 (Verification Code: 6b62b9ekkm)  
Level 1 – April 2001 (Verification Code: 4hpbcbz3s7)

## **Experience**

*Edmunds.com* – October 2006 – Present  
Santa Monica, CA

Edmunds Inc. was founded in 1966 for the purpose of publishing new and used automotive pricing guides to assist automobile buyers. Launched in early 1995, www.edmunds.com was the first automotive information Web site, predating even automobile manufacturer web sites.

Position: **UNIX Administrator –SysOps, AppOps**

Responsibilities:

- Worked with QA and Developers to help identify bottlenecks in the virtual infrastructure, making on-the-fly changes to tune the environment for the stage of the development lifecycle.
- Start and stop weblogic nodes. Deploy new code releases to app and web tiers. Enable/Disable servers on the load balancer (F5 BigIP). Monitor performance of caching (Akamai, NetCache), web, app, and database tiers.

Accomplishments:

- Virtual Infrastructure Rebuild – Worked with a team of 2-5 to upgrade VMware ESX server to Virtual Infrastructure 3, configured to support LDAP authentication, installed Virtual Center, redesigned the network layout to ensure all systems were identical, attached to iSCSI storage to support VMotion, configured DRS settings and set rules to keep servers separated in the environment. Upgraded VMware tools on more than 60 virtual machines. Set kernel options in guest operating system to better work with the virtual clock. Updated DHCP and kickstart profiles to reflect new MAC addresses on virtual hardware, following

the upgrade to 3.0. Performed these tasks with minimal downtime, in support of a major site release.

- “Infrastructure Operations Player of the Week”, June 25, 2007 – Weekly award nominated by and voted on by a group of Infrastructure Operations managers.

***Move, Inc. / Homestore, Inc.*** – December 2005 – October 2006  
Westlake Village, CA

For the last ten years, Move, the new Homestore®, has been providing information and decision support tools for consumers looking for home and real estate-related information on the Internet. Visitors to Move’s Web sites, including REALTOR.com®, Move.com™ (formerly Homestore.com®, RENTNET® and HomeBuilder.com®) and SeniorHousingNet™ have access to the most comprehensive selection of existing homes for sale, new homes, apartments for rent and senior housing.

Position: **UNIX Administrator**

Responsibilities:

- With a team of 3-4, responsible for approximately 400 UNIX systems including FreeBSD, OpenBSD, Solaris, Debian, and VMware ESX/VI3. Create ftp accounts, dns entries, log rotation, cron jobs. Create and modify vservers (vips) on Netscaler; migrate vips from bigip in preparation for datacenter move. Create qtrees and cifs shares on NetApp filers, manually kick off snapmirror updates. Installation and maintenance of VMware ESX Server 2.5.x and Virtual Infrastructure 3 with VirtualCenter, and PlateSpin PowerConvert to virtualize existing physical servers. Web server acceleration using NetApp NetCache appliances. Responsible for Tier 1 web applications including rentnet.com, homefair.com, and all virtual tours.
- Real-time monitoring and trending of production systems and appliances using distributed Nagios 2 (over 2000 service checks) and Cacti. Escalation via email and text messages. Retired What’s-up Gold. Moved checks from SiteScope to Nagios to free up licenses.
- Primary Release Engineer for Rentnet.com, backup for Homefair. Pushed code changes out to production, staging and QA application servers (ATG Dynamo). Helped revise operational push process, eliminating unnecessary steps. Developed bash scripts to automate the process. Developed apache rewrite rules as needed.

Accomplishments:

- Data Center Move – Helped relocate Move’s datacenter from Thousand Oaks, CA to Phoenix, AZ. This involved rebuilding the infrastructure in the new location as well as virtualizing the majority of the systems. Built new Nagios and Cacti instances, and internal DNS. With minimal existing documentation, migrated cookie server from Solaris on SPARC to a Debian virtual machine (Solaris support was not yet available; FreeBSD support was not current). Assisted with the buildout on SMTP, external DNS, FTP. Assisted in the creation of Netscaler vservers (vips) and configuration of NetCache appliances, including assisting in the redesign of the NetCache farm/vips to eliminate single points of failure. With minimal documentation, migrated legacy Rentnet servers to Phoenix; built new mod\_dynamo front-ends, reconfigured ATG Dynamo 4.5 application servers to work in the new environment without modifying existing licenses (tied to hostname/ip address).

- Move.com Re-Branding – Release Engineer for Rentnet.com during the re-branding to Move.com, including numerous production releases, dns changes, and on-the-fly creation of apache rewrites.

**TekSystems / Homestore, Inc.** – August 2005 – December 2005  
Westlake Village, CA

Contract-to-Perm position for Homestore, Inc., a leading supplier of media and technology solutions that promote and connect Real Estate Professionals to consumers before, during and after a move.

Position: **UNIX Administrator**

Responsibilities:

- UNIX Administration – Creating ftp accounts (proftp), add dns entries (bind), set up log rotation, troubleshoot cron jobs. With a team of 3-4, responsible for more than 200 UNIX systems including FreeBSD, OpenBSD, Solaris, and Debian.
- Real-time monitoring and trending of production systems and appliances using distributed Nagios 2 (over 2000 service checks) and Cacti. Escalation via email. Retired What's-up Gold. Moved checks from SiteScope to Nagios to free up licenses.
- Release Engineer for Rentnet.com, Homefair.com. Pushed code changes out to production, staging and QA application servers. Helped revise operational push process, eliminating some unnecessary steps.

Accomplishments:

- Assisted with logical inventory and helped develop Application Migration packets in preparation for a data center move.
- Installed VMware ESX 2.5.1 to an IBM blade center (HS40's/HS20's) and NetApp SAN as part of a boot from san proof of concept test.

**SocalLinuxAdmin.com** – January 2003 – Present  
Thousand Oaks, CA

Consulting work for businesses and individuals throughout Southern California. Clients include *The Debt Professionals (Technology Sciences Inc., Sunrise Financial), Robinson Computer Service, San Diego Foundation for Change and Shanti Design.*

Responsibilities:

- Linux/Windows Systems/Network Administration – System installations by hand or using Red Hat's Kickstart or Norton Ghost. System maintenance, log monitoring, server and database backups. Responding to trouble-tickets and phone or email requests for service, 24/7/365. Responsible for 35 RedHat or Gentoo Linux servers throughout the US.
- PHP Programming / LAMP (Linux-Apache-MySQL-PHP) Development
- Desktop Support – Build, repair, and replace systems. Virus and spyware removal.

Accomplishments:

- Assisted in a network redesign at an architectural firm, which increased security and reliability, while remaining transparent to the end users; moved services provided by

three out of date Windows NT systems to a single Red Hat Linux server, implemented virus checking on the mail and file server, installed SofaWare (A CheckPoint company) VPN/Firewall appliance and configured client software.

- Presented a list of suggestions for improvement to a client, including risk management issues that could have saved them from flood damage to their servers and downtime due to accidental database deletion, both of which happened within a week of the presentation.

***ISE Research Corporation*** – August 2001 – January 2003  
San Diego, CA

In business since 1984, ISE Research-ThunderVolt is a San Diego based manufacturer of electric, hybrid-electric and fuel cell drive systems for heavy duty vehicles.

Position: **IT Administrator**

Responsibilities:

- Development, hardening, and maintenance of 5 production servers (Red Hat Linux, Windows NT 4.0, Windows 2000 Server) running a variety of services, and over 30 workstations (Win 98, 2000, XP, Mac OS9). Evaluate need for upgrades, new systems. Maintained the PBX, added new lines when necessary.
- Worked with management and user groups to develop a strong, yet minimally invasive, security policy. Performed a series of security audits, including testing for weak passwords, evaluating and rewriting existing custom administrative scripts, as well as local and network vulnerability scans. Designed and implemented network-wide backup procedure. Implemented a Network Intrusion Detection System (Snort).

Accomplishments:

- Developed Linux distribution for use on an embedded Remote Diagnostics Unit (RDU).
- Project Manager on a computer interface to a power inverter; the purpose of the interface was to serve as a marketing demo at SFO Airport, informing the public about the Solar Array powering Terminal 1.
- Designed integrated web-based (PHP/MySQL) daily task list and time sheet for the company intranet.

***Robinson Computer Service*** – July 2000 – August 2001  
Simi Valley, CA

Robinson Computer Service, founded in 1998, is an Internet consulting firm that specializes in helping small and mid-sized companies develop successful Internet solutions. Services provided by RCS include network design and construction, web design, and web hosting; RCS hosted more than 20 domains.

Position: **Security/System Consultant**

Responsibilities:

- General administration/troubleshooting of Linux/FreeBSD servers. Developed several bourne shell scripts for administrative functions.
- Designed, Built, and Hardened Red Hat Linux-based DNS, mail and web servers. Maintained existing FreeBSD server.
- Developed Perl/CGI/MySQL web-based User and Product Management software in conjunction with existing proprietary libraries. Assisted in the development of a PHP/SQL keyword based search feature for client sites.

***CNM Network (Consumer Net Marketplace, Inc.)*** - February 1999 – December 1999  
Simi Valley, CA

CNM Network Inc. founded in 1996, is a national Internet service provider, and one of the first to provide tested, carrier-quality voice over IP. CNM provides 24 hour, toll-free technical support, and had a support staff of approximately 20 people at the time I was there.

Position: **Lead Technical Support Representative**

Responsibilities:

- Lead a team of up to five other techs, in order to provide prompt and accurate technical support on multiple platforms. Handled customer requests for a supervisor. Advised new Technical Support Representatives on Customer Service, troubleshooting, and network configurations specific to CNM Network.
- Provided technical support to Internet dial-up customers for Windows (9x, NT, 3.1), Macintosh, and Linux systems. Support was provided via telephone, Internet relay chat (IRC), and electronic mail.

Accomplishments:

- Assisted engineers in the design and testing of multi-platform marketing CD.
- Assisted in the design of a Technical Support Skills Exam to assess training needs of current and future Technical Support Representatives.
- Designed Frequently Asked Questions pages for Eudora Light and Dial-Up Networking for Windows 9x Systems.

## **Education**

*University of California, Santa Barbara*  
Bachelor of Arts -- Philosophy: June 2000

*Moorpark College*  
Associate in Arts -- Social Sciences with Emphasis in Philosophy: August 1996  
Associate in Arts -- General Liberal Arts: December 1996  
Dean's List: Spring 1994

*Thousand Oaks High School*  
High School Diploma: June 1993