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Infrastructure & Open Source

I speak German, English and Serbo-Croatian. On the software side, I am fluent in Ruby, Python, C, and (Ba)sh, and have some reasonable proficiency in Go and Rust, but I'm unafraid to read and fix software written in any other language.

I have worked in Unix based IT infrastructure for most of my career, and with Open Source software, both hands-on, and as coach. Since ca 2012 I'm doing it only part-time. Despite that, I seem to have achieved quite a lot. Here's a small, software development focused selection.

Experience

2017 - 2024 **Software Engineer, *cloud-init* & *FreeBSD*.**

FreeBSD is a free and open source operating system in the Unix family I have been involved with since 2010. cloud-init is the standard provisioning tool for virtual machines in cloud environments I started working on in 2017.

In 2020, while primarily taking care of my daughter, I (re)initiated a big refactoring project in cloud-init's networking "abstraction". One of the maintainers took ownership of this idea, and ran with it.

Towards the end of 2021 the effort was reinvigorated, when the [FreeBSD Foundation](#) hired me to officially work on it.

During my work on cloud-init, I made several improvements to the FreeBSD system itself, as well as the python language runtime, automatically testing them on AWS and GCP with Terraform/OpenTofu.

2018 - 2020 **Software Engineer, Community Manager, *Plume*.**

Plume is an open source federated blogging application based on the ActivityPub protocol, written in Rust

my main contribution was to add SQLite support to the project, which earned me commit access

Being the most senior member among a very young cast of enthusiastic contributors it fell on to me to guide much the early community management.

I then started the slow descend into the madness that is porting a giant project and its dependencies to `async Rust`

2018 **Freelance Software Developer, *Metro Systems*, Düsseldorf.**

Metro Systems was the internal IT systems provider of Metro Group, now Metro AG,

a multinational wholesale retailer based in Düsseldorf.

Developing of an Infrastructure Provisioning system for Metro

The first iteration of this was based on [cloud-init](#), but as customization grew out of proportion, we decided to start fresh in Go.

2018 Freelance Software Engineer, [Automatic Server](#), Düsseldorf.

Automatic Server is a IaaS / PaaS developer and provider from Switzerland. I worked with them together at Metro System.

Worked on developing [LXE](#) in Go, an interface for [LXD](#) to comply with [CRI](#), thus enabling Kubernetes to manage Linux system containers.

2013 - 2021 Software Engineer, Evangelist, [Puppet](#).

Puppet is a Software Configuration Management system, used to install and configure software across selected fleets of machines.

Through my work as a DevOps Engineer at various customers, I started contributing to several Puppet projects, and was granted commit access to two prominent modules, becoming one of the first and very few external maintainers.

Unhappy with the state of several community created modules, I co-founded [Vox-pupuli](#) in 2014. I became one of our main community advocates, giving [talks](#) about the basics of a [Community of Practice](#) and why you should join us, or how to create your own.

2010 - 2014 Documentation Engineer, Release Manager, [Apache Software Foundation](#).

The Apache Software Foundation is an American nonprofit corporation, home to over 100 active projects.

As a frequent contributor, I was granted commit access to the [Apache HTTPD](#) documentation in 2010, and soon after, the entire project. My code contributions remained quite modest tho.

Being an ASF Member, and Apache HTTPD contributor, it wasn't a big step join another Apache project when [TrafficServer](#) piqued my interest in 2012.

I focused on helping port the project to toolchains I used at the time ([Clang](#), [Sun Studio](#)) as well as my favourite Operating Systems, FreeBSD, and Solaris.

I then set my attention on migrating the documentation to Python's reStructured Text on [Read The Docs](#).

Despite the fact that C++ is not my forte, I served as a Release Manager of the software for about 3 releases.

Talks

2017 [Ops to Dev](#), [DevOps Days London](#), London.

[What to bring and what to leave behind](#) (video recording)

We have very different tools — and methods in Dev & Ops. Much of DevOps has been to transfer methods and tools from Dev to Ops. But coming from Ops, I'd like to think that there are things Devs can learn from their Ops colleagues.