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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 good proficiency in Go and Rust, but I'm unafraid of reading and fixing 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 some of it.

Experience

2021-2022 **Principal Technical Program Manager**, *Puppet Inc.*, Dortmund (remote).

Puppet Inc., is a privately held information technology (IT) automation software company based in Portland, Oregon, USA.

In this role I curated and created training material for Professional Services staff based primarily in the London and Belfast offices.

2020 **Freelance Project Manager**, *Radically Open Security*, Dortmund (remote).

ROS is a Dutch nonprofit corporation which provides *ethical* cyber security services and training.

In 2020 I helped the Operations team migrate the company's infrastructure to a new location.

This entailed aiding in the discovery and inventorizing of the existing infrastructure, the design of the future environment, as well as managing the project of migrating from one to the other.

2019-2020 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *Barmenia Krankenversicherung AG*, Wuppertal.

Barmenia is a German Insurance Company.

Helped their IT department migrate their Puppet Infrastructure from Puppet 3 and 4 to Puppet 5 while bringing their testing up to standard.

2019 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *ITERGO Informationstechnologie GmbH*, Düsseldorf.

ITERGO Informationstechnologie GmbH is the internal IT service provider of the ERGO insurance group

Helped their IT department migrate their Puppet Infrastructure from Puppet 3 to Puppet 5 while also bringing their testing up to standard (or into existence).

- 2018 **Freelance Junior Pentester**, *Radically Open Security*, Dortmund (remote).
I worked with ROS on two code auditing projects that year, and one penetration test of a big Dutch retailer's infrastructure on-site.
- 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 *LXE*, an interface for *LXD* to comply with *CRI*, thus enabling Kubernetes to manage Linux system containers.
- 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.
- 2017 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *Metro Systems*, Düsseldorf.
Embedded in a team responsible for innovating a cloud infrastructure for Metro.
Our daily business of running such an enormous infrastructure included keeping the Puppet infrastructure up-to-date and running smoothly, and building and debugging distributed systems.
We collaborated closely with developers using these systems.
- 2016 **Freelance DevOps Coach**, *S-IT*, Vienna.
S-IT Solutions was a service company to Austria's Erstebank and Sparkassen bank.
Over a week long workshop, I taught their Operations team version control basics with Git, Puppet fundamentals, as well as (new) best practices.
- 2016 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *ÖAMTC*, Vienna.
The Österreichische Automobil-, Motorrad- und Touring Club is an Automobile association that provides (emergency) assistance and insurance services across Austria, and internationally, via their partner network.
I worked with their Operations team to improve the design of their Puppet infrastructure and migrate it to the then newest version.
- 2013 - 2015 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *RISE*, Vienna.
RISE is a Viennese company providing IT services, such as specialised hardware and software development.
While working for their Operations Team, I introduced centralized logging infrastructure
Assisted in the rearchitecturing process of their Puppet environment, as well as its implementation, affecting hundreds of machines and dozens of services
Introduced package repositories for both the OS (Debian and Redhat) and each Programming Environment in use (Python pip, Haskell cabal, Ruby gems, etc...)

And perhaps most importantly, I introduced code-reviews into the Ops development process

2012 Freelance Test Infrastructure Manager, VIE Airport, Schwechat.

In 2012 the Vienna International Airport made their 4th attempt to migrate their ground control system from a legacy COBOL system to something more modern.

My main responsibility was to automate the testing infrastructure of the project. I did this so well, that before the end of the project, I had automated myself out of this job. What a success story! The migration of the legacy COBOL system was also successful.

2007-2011 Site Reliability Engineer, Bwin, Vienna.

Bwin was an Austrian Online Gambling company, and my first employment.

On-call duty for production landscape running on Solaris & Linux

Deploying and debugging dozens of applications running on (only) ~60 servers

Introducing package repositories for both the OS (Solaris, Redhat) and each Programming Environment in use (Java, pip, etc...)

Consulting developers in matters of messaging architectures

Open Source

2017 - present Software Engineer, [cloud-init](#) & [FreeBSD](#).

cloud-init is the standard provisioning tool for virtual machines in cloud environments. FreeBSD is a free and open source operating system in the Unix family.

My primary interest in cloud-init outside of working hours was always to bring better support to FreeBSD to the project. I first started doing that 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](#). The project is still on-going, though I wasn't able to meaningfully contribute at the time.

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

During my work on the cloud-init, I made several improvements to the FreeBSD system itself.

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 a customer who extensively worked with Puppet, I started contributing to several Puppet projects, and was granted access to the [MySQL](#) & [Apache](#) 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 Writer, 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

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.

A [video recording of talk](#) is online, too.

2016 **Voxpupuli, Open Source Speedtrain**, [CfgMgmtCamp](#), Ghent.

I've given this Presentation about what [Voxpupuli](#) is and how it works at numerous conferences. Sadly it has never been recorded. There is however a [blog post](#)

2015 **Introduction of Voxpupuli**, [Puppet Contributor Summit](#), Portland, Oregon.

This was my first talk introducing Voxpupuli.

2014 **Puppet Types & Providers**, [PuppetConf.](#), San Francisco.

Misleadingly, or, ambitiously, this talk was titled "Absolute Beginners Guide to Puppet Through Types". Unfortunately, I missed the mark, and it became a talk about Puppet's Types & Providers facilities.

[Link to slides](#)

2014 **Open Sourcing Mental Illness**, [ApacheCon EU](#), Budapest.

This talk ran under [Ed Fink's](#) Banner of Open [Sourcing Mental Illness](#), who had been running these types of talks for over a year at that point. Ed talks are very broadly on the subject, while still backing it up with his personal stories.

I wanted to mirror his work under that banner. I wanted to talk about depression, and I wanted to talk about burn out. Open source is work. Not just a work of passion, but real actual work. And it can be taxing. In this talk, I talked about how.

2013 **Building Web Applications for Scale**, *WebCamp*, Zagreb.

Scaling an Web application these days means “putting it in the Cloud.” However, being able to properly deploy a Web Application into a (public or private) cloud requires a number of prerequisites — all of which will turn out to be hugely beneficial to its performance even if it runs on a single server.

[Link to slides](#)

Interests

After working for a gambling company I have somewhat soured on watching sport, but I still love *playing* it. In particular basketball. I have practiced several martial arts over the years (Jujitsu, Aikido, Iaido) and am currently practicing Muay Thai.

One of my biggest interests is linguistics. While I only speak three languages, I am trying my hardest to *understand* as many as possible.

My biggest passion is “infrastructure”, not just IT infrastructure but all kinds of infrastructures that are keeping us alive and connected. I love cycling as a means of transport, and trains and all other kinds of public transit.