

ULYSSES SOMERS

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SUMMARY

Experienced Senior Systems Engineer and PostgreSQL DBA. Expertise in a wide range of server software. Program mostly in Ruby, with past production experience in Perl and PHP.

RECENT EXPERIENCE

MoxiWorks LLC, Seattle, WA

2016 – 2024

Senior Dev Ops Engineer

MoxiWorks has a hybrid infrastructure, using two physical datacenters, AWS, and Azure. In addition to bare metal, they run Linux VMs under VMWare, KVM, Proxmox, and EC2. They also run docker containers directly under ECS, and are in the process of migrating to EKS. Most services run under Rails, with some WordPress, .NET, and Java.

I was the DBA for our PostgreSQL servers, which is used by the Rails apps. MoxiWorks runs PostgreSQL clusters on bare metal, on VMs (both on-prem and in AWS), in RDS, and in Aurora. I was also the DBA for our MySQL and MariaDB servers, which are the backends for the four WordPress farms.

I was also primary on DNS BIND, which MoxiWorks uses to host roughly 15,000 domains.

I also supported the rest of the data center infrastructure, including networking (Cisco), disk (Netapp), Hypervisors (KVM/VMWare/Proxmox), hundreds of VMs, Redis, Memcached, Elasticsearch, and HAProxy.

I participated in the 24/7 on-call rotation, usually one week in five. Additionally, when not officially on-call, I would be called in to help resolve production issues.

I migrated servers and services into AWS, and was part of the team supporting the wide range of AWS products MoxiWorks uses, including SES, EC2, ECS, S3, VPCs, EKS, Transfer, and EFS.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

RealNetworks, INC., Seattle, WA

Senior Systems Engineer

During my tenure at RealNetworks, my accomplishments included maintaining legacy systems, migrating legacy services to new systems, migrating services from on-prem to AWS, and designing and deploying new services.

AWS: I migrated a number of old services from colo to AWS. I also set up new services in AWS.

CVS and SVN: When I took over support for our CVS and SVN repositories, they ran on very old hardware. I migrated them to new servers in the Westin datacenter.

DNS: My initial department, RBN, ran its own DNS infrastructure. When we merged with other departments, I was eventually the sole administrator for a heterogeneous farm including Linux BIND, FreeBSD BIND, and BT Diamond appliances, with three different origin servers. I resolved existing zone inconsistencies and consolidated the zones to one origin server. I moved all the servers to Linux BIND, using configs generated from a central location, and implemented change tracking and monitoring for all of our DNS servers.

I moved the authoritatives from the RealNetworks headquarters building to datacenters in Seattle and Japan. Later, I migrated them to AWS. All the migrations were performed without an interruption in service.

nginx Redirection: Marketing needed the ability to redirect a variety of domain names and URLs. I set up and supported a robust and easy-to-use nginx-based redirection service.

Ecommerce Platform Preprod Support: I took over maintenance, support, and upgrades of the Ecommerce Platform's preproduction stack. There were many different applications, running in several environments. I stabilized and upgraded it, and started a project to migrate to a standard OS and server build, configured by Chef.

JIRA and Confluence: RealNetworks hosted both JIRA and Confluence on-prem. I took over support, stabilized and documented the setup, set up monitoring using PagerDuty, automated maintenance and upgrades, and set up test instances.

Logs: I consolidated log collection, set up a single location for logs to be pushed to, and developed a service which could pull logs from any source. I migrated this service from the server rooms in the RealNetworks building to the Westin datacenter, and later to AWS S3 buckets.

Streaming Redirector: RealNetworks operated a large heterogeneous farm of media servers, controlled by a homegrown streaming redirector for load balancing. I started as part of a large team, but over time I became the sole sysadmin and developer.

Caravali Coffees, Lead Roaster

My main responsibilities were coffee roasting, quality control, and working with the green coffee buyer. Eventually, I took over managing the LAN and supporting the workstations and laptops.

Starbucks, Lead Roaster

COMPUTER SKILLS

OS: Mostly Linux (Debian/Ubuntu/CentOS/Amazon Linux/Redhat), with some Solaris and ESXi. Very familiar with standard Unix tools, such as bash, vim, netstat, sudo, find, du, df, ssh, rsync, etc.

Programming: Ruby, Perl, and PHP. Also familiar with SQL, HTML, JavaScript, Expect, and bash.

Servers: BIND, Exim, Sendmail, MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, Memcached, Redis, Icecast, RMServer, ProFTPD, Apache, nginx, HAProxy, RackMonkey, CFEngine, Chef, Jenkins, sshd, nfsd, RCS, CVS, SVN, Git, KVM, VMWare, Proxmox, Rails and Sinatra.

AWS Services: EC2, VPC, ECS, RDS, Aurora, Transfer, EKS, SES, IAM, S3, Route 53, and CloudFront.