



Rod Gasson 2009

Résumé - Rod Gasson
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vcard

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Personal Info:

Male, born in England 10/10/1955, immigrated to Australia in 1969.
I became an Australian citizen in 1997.
I hold a current SA drivers license for car and motorcycle.
I have a National Police Clearance Certificate No. 201355 (Date of issue 11/04/06)

Skills:

I am very computer literate, both hardware and software.

I have been responsible for the building, setup, day to day running and administration of the Linux based servers that were used help promote not only our own repair business, but also many other businesses.

I first started programming computers using BASIC and assembly in 1987 (on the C64).
I set up my first online server (dialup BBS) in 1988, and our first Internet Server in 1997

With almost 25 years of computer experience, including 10 years experience using Linux Networked servers, and many more years using MS-DOS, Win 3.1, win95, win98, XP & NT, I have become very adept in all facets of server administration, including, but not limited to:

Skills/Tasks	Competency / Experience	Notes
Server and Network set-up and administration	Extensive	Local and remote. Linux, Server2003, Server2007, Novell and Cisco IOS
Shell scripting.	Extensive	Bash, sh, csh, tsh, etc. Self-taught
Perl Scripting	Minimal	Self-taught
C programming	Minimal/Moderate	Formal Training
PHP programming	Extensive	Mostly self-taught + Formal Training
Java, Visual Basic	Moderate/Intermediate	Formal Training
CSS, JavaScript & AJAX	Moderate	Self-taught
HTML	Extensive	Can use basic tools such as "notepad" as well as various GUI's & IDE's
MySQL administration, Programming and Database Design	Extensive	Mostly self-taught + Formal Training
Server backup and restores	Extensive	Mostly self-taught + Formal Training
Firewalls & Routing	moderate/Extensive	CCNA1, CCNA2 Formal Training
LAN/WAN technologies	moderate/Extensive	CCNA3, CCNA4 Formal Training
Network Security Plans	Moderate	Formal Training utilising the ASCI33 Australian Govt Standards
Security & Risk Management Plans	Moderate	Formal Training utilising the AS/NZS4360 Australian/NZ Govt Standards

I am fluent in the following protocols/services:

Protocol	Service & Experience
SMTP	Predominantly Sendmail, with exposure to Postfix, Qmail, Exim, etc
POP3 / IMAP	Various
HTTP / HTTPS	Apache / IIS
FTP/SFTP	ProFtp/wsFtp
SSH / SSL / TELNET	Various
NNTP	INND – Newsgroups
BIND	DNS
SQUID	Proxy servers
IPTABLES / IPCHAINS	Firewall
RSYNC	Backup / Restores
LDAP/Active Directory	Directory Services. System/User management
SQL	Predominantly MySQL, with some exposure to MSsql & Postgres. I originally learnt about relational databases using C64 Superbase, followed by DB3, DB4 and FoxPro for DOS.

I am most at home with Centos / RedHat Linux, but am flexible enough to feel comfortable with Mandrake/Mandriva, Fedora, Suse, Debian, FreeBSD, Knoppix, FreeBSD, Ubuntu, Gentoo, and most other *nix variants.

I have had formal training with Microsoft's Server2003, Server2007, Novell and Cisco IOS.

I make regular use of Vmware, VirtualPC and VirtualBox.

I have had limited exposure (formal training) with Sun's Rational Software Architect, and am familiar with programming methodologies such as SDLC, Agile & Scrum, as well as UML & OOP software design.

Employment history:

2010 - Seeking employment

2006 – 2009 TAFE Study (full time)

1991 - 2006 Self Employed. Trading as VideoCam Services (home workshop)

Initially started out as a VCR/VideoCamera Repairs and Service business, during the early years I was responsible for the following:

- All major business operations and decisions.
- Cash handling, Insurance claim reports, Taxation and Legal Compliance
- VCR,Camcorder,CD & DVD Repairs (field & bench work)
- Electronic fault finding (component level)
- High reliability soldering (military specifications)
- PCB, Circuit design and manufacture (small scale)

Milestones:

1994 Added computer repairs to our services.

1997 Setup our first **Internet** server.
Allocated 64 public IP addresses by "Telstra Direct" our home network grew to encompass up to half a dozen networked machines running various operating systems including Windows95, FreeBSD and Linux. (This my first introduction to subnetting).

These servers were used to provide web hosting, web design and Email facilities for friends and acquaintances with their own businesses.

1998 Added Dial-in services (internet connectivity) for selected clients. This often involved a lot of client support in regards to setting up their home computers, especially for those still running Win3.11 with 'winsock'

1999 Added multi-line dialup/internet services (10 lines. 9 incoming +1 outgoing)

2000 – 2001

Continued expansion of our hosting/design services had us supporting approximately 20-30 domains. I was responsible for the upgrade of our Internet link to ADSL (one of the first adoptees in Sth.Aust), as this link was with a dynamic IP it wasn't suitable for hosting purposes on its own, but it gave me the opportunity to learn a lot about packet switching and network routing. I ended up configuring our system to accept incoming requests on one link (dialup) and send the outgoing data on the other (ADSL) thus maximising network performance.

2001 - 2002

A Serious illness with wife/partner resulted in us having to suspend almost all of our services except web hosting and a small amount of design and support work.

2005 VideoCam Services officially ceased operations in August 2005 due to the non-viability of domestic electronic repairs in a small scale environment (and basically, we were never able to recover from the suspending of these services).

The WebHosting aspect of the business was/is being maintained as a hobby.

2006 A change in living arrangements caused a loss of our broadband access and I was responsible for the migration the data for all of our clients domains to a remote system. Careful planning allowed this to be performed with little or no downtime for any of our clients.

The server is a Linux based machine (CentOS), located in the USA that I manage via SSH/VPN

Various hosts on our home network (dynamic IP's) are Internet accessible via port-forwarding and dynamic DNS technologies.

The ongoing skills I have learned & maintain as a result of this hobby include:

- Computer and Network set-ups (home, small business, community groups, etc)
- Modem/ADSL/Wireless set-up and configurations.
- Computer Repairs & Upgrades (including power supply rebuilds, Motherboard repairs, jumper reconfigurations, BIOS upgrades, etc.)
- Customer Support & Tuition
- Management of Internet Servers
- System maintenance, Firewall configurations, Backups & Security.
- Web design, PHP/MySQL programming

1988 – 1991 Hills Telefix Bench Technician – VCR/Camcorder repairs.
(Edwardstown, SA) Exposure to computer repairs (TRS80, C64, etc) – component level.
Obtained “In-House” training on digital techniques

1985 – 1988 Radio Rentals (Prospect, SA) Bench Technician – TV/VCR repairs

1975 – 1985 Rufus Engineering, Omark Aust, McNamara Electroplating,
Tunneys wholesale (Factory work, storeman, and driver)

Qualifications/Certificates:

1983	Basic Electronics	Regency Park Community College, SA
1985	TV fundamentals & Colour TV Techniques	Regency Park Community College, SA
1986	Video Recording Techniques	Regency Park Community College, SA
1990	Video Camera Servicing	Regency Park Community College, SA
2009	Advanced Diploma Network Security	Noarlunga TAFE
2009	Certificate IV in IT - Networking	Noarlunga TAFE
2010	Certificate IV in IT - Programming	Noarlunga & Adelaide TAFE
2010	Certificate IV in Training and Assessment	Noarlunga TAFE

I have also attended many trade courses over the years between 1990 & 2009

Additional Information

Not having enough income from our webhosting, and being unsuccessful in obtaining full time employment within the IT industry (in 2005-2006), which I attributed to the fact that:

1. I had no formal IT qualifications
2. I had no verifiable employment history. (Was I honest? Reliable? Punctual? A team player?)
3. I was too 'old'

Unable to do much about #3, I took "time out" to attend Fulltime TAFE with the view of rectifying the other attributed limitations in the best way I could.

As can be noted, I not only passed my original course (Cert IV networking) but in the process pushed myself into completing several other courses at the same time.

In the four years of study I only ever missed one class (and that was a result of a broken water pipe in my home that caused moderate flooding)

Although many of the classes covered topics that I was already familiar with, I had no more, and probably less difficulties in learning new material as the much younger members of the class(es). I mention this to alleviate the perception that 'old people' tend to be stuck in their ways and avoid (or can't) learning new technologies or techniques.

I often found myself mentoring many of my classmates, and on a few occasions I was asked/permitted to teach the class(es), using lesson plans that I'd developed myself.

This is what prompted me to deviate a little from IT, and study for the Cert IV in Training and Assessment.

Personal Traits:

- I occasionally/often appear to be arrogant as a result of knowing my skills, capabilities and my limitations.
- I do not suffer fools.
- I speak my mind.
- I have been told that I 'have the patience of a saint' when it comes to teaching people things they wish to learn, but I have little or no patience for those with the capacity to learn, but refuse to do so.
- I am equally at home being a 'leader' as well as a 'follower' (team member), and generally get on equally well with people no matter what their age, race or religion.

Personal Interests:

- Anything to do with computers and networks, especially in regards to network security, hacking methods and exploits.
- New technology.
- Going to concerts performed by the ASO (Adelaide Symphony Orchestra).
- The occasional Dinner out and Movie

Personal Acheivments:

- Wrote and produced “QWKRR”. An offline mail read/reply program for the Commodore C128. Written in assembler, it had its own text editor and macro processor.

This program was the first of its kind for the Commodore. It broke new ground and did several things that were previously considered 'impossible' for the C64/128 (I relish achieving the 'impossible') :-)
<http://homestead.vcsweb.com/content/qwkr128-introduction>

- Proofed, typeset and published my wifes book “The Internet for C64/128 Users” ISBN: 0-9585837-0-6
<http://homestead.vcsweb.com/content/the-internet-for-commodore-c64128-users-a-manual>
- Created an Australian shipping module for a popular Ecommerce software known as “zencart”
<http://www.zen-cart.com/> The module can be freely downloaded at:
http://www.zen-cart.com/index.php?main_page=product_contrib_info&products_id=1286

As well as writing and maintaining the client code (module) for this application I am also responsible for designing and creating the server code at <http://ozpost.vcsweb.com/>
This software is based on LAMP technology.

Referees: Bernie Stoker Lecturer Noarlunga TAFE
Chris McGee Lecturer Adelaide/Noarlunga TAFE
Kym Bond Lecturer Adelaide/Noarlunga TAFE