Ben Leppke

Senior Systems Administrator / IT Lead

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SKILLS

Cloud & platform: AWS (EC2, ECS/Fargate, Lambda, S3, RDS, VPC, IAM, Bedrock), Microsoft 365, Entra ID

Automation: PowerShell, Python, Bash, TypeScript, React, Node, Ansible, Terraform, CI/CD

Security & compliance: SOC 2, NIST 800-53, StateRAMP, GovRAMP, HIPAA

Systems: Windows Server, Active Directory, IIS, Linux (Amazon Linux, CentOS, RHEL), VMware

Networking: Cisco, Palo Alto, AnyConnect, GlobalProtect, Tailscale, IPsec, ACLs

AI tooling: Claude, Amazon Bedrock, Amazon Quick, GitHub Copilot, Microsoft Copilot, Cursor, MCP

SUMMARY

Systems administrator with 20 years in IT across higher education, healthcare, and enterprise hosting. I run a 150-person software company's AWS and on-prem infrastructure, networking, identity, email, and security compliance, and I build the automation that keeps it maintainable. I'm comfortable owning a problem end to end, from the firewall rule to the PowerShell script to the audit evidence.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Systems Administrator / IT Lead, Ad Astra

NOV 2018 – PRESENT

- Own corporate IT for a 150-person higher-ed SaaS company: ~100 cloud workloads across a dozen AWS accounts plus a small on-prem footprint, networking, identity, email, and compliance.
- Led the migration of ~60 on-prem servers (~40 physical hosts) to AWS, retiring most of the datacenter.
- Manage corporate networking (Cisco and Palo Alto firewalls, IPsec tunnels, ACLs, and AnyConnect, GlobalProtect, and Tailscale VPNs) and administer Microsoft 365, Exchange Online, and Entra ID.
- Maintain SOC 2, NIST 800-53, StateRAMP, and GovRAMP compliance; build audit scripts and evidence tooling.
- Build CI/CD pipelines for Terraform, Ansible playbooks for patching and maintenance, and PowerShell provisioning for onboarding and offboarding.
- Cut monthly maintenance from ~18 engineer-hours to ~1.5 hours through automation.
- Lead AI tooling rollout across Claude, Amazon Bedrock, Amazon Quick, GitHub Copilot, Microsoft Copilot, and Cursor, including infrastructure, MCP connectors, OAuth, and access control.
- Manage the helpdesk and user/laptop provisioning with one helpdesk engineer.

Senior System Engineer, CernerWorks Client Ops, Cerner

APR 2013 – NOV 2018

- Managed and supported large-scale client Citrix environments, IIS, and IBM WebSphere cells for hospital clients.
- Migrated more than a billion medical images from a client datacenter, including data recovery from a corrupt drive.
- Moved two large Cerner Millennium clients from client-hosted datacenters to Cerner; nominated for 2017 Project of the Year.
- Built department-wide PowerShell tooling for monitoring, maintenance, and package loading used by hundreds of engineers.
- Led a two-week scripting and troubleshooting training session in Bangalore, India.
- Set implementation standards for third-party software and coordinated with Linux middleware and Oracle Database teams.

IT Manager, Satanta District Hospital

APR 2011 – APR 2013

- Owned all IT infrastructure for a 13-bed hospital, 42-bed long-term care unit, retail pharmacy, and two clinics (~200 users).
- Oversaw the EMR and EHR rollout for the ACA and ICD-10 mandates.
- Served as HIPAA Security Officer, including policy, enforcement, and compliance.
- Managed Windows and Linux servers, networking, backups, disaster recovery, phones, purchasing, and the department budget.

PC Support Technician, Fort Hays State University

AUG 2007 – APR 2011

- Supported faculty and staff computers at the Computing and Telecommunications Center.
- Repaired hardware, installed and configured software, and handled remote troubleshooting.

IT Technician, USD 408

JUN 2005 – AUG 2008

- Deployed and imaged 240 laptops in a single summer, and handled network wiring, switches, and Novell shares.
- Designed web and graphic materials, and supported hardware, software, and classroom media equipment.

EDUCATION

BA, Information Networking & Telecommunications

2011

Fort Hays State University · Emphasis in Computer Networking