Rowland Bainbridge

Linux / Unix Systems Administrator Contractor

Contact Information

Location: Cheshire, Northwest England
Working Arrangement: Currently WFH
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Citizenship: Dual British & Irish (EU) Citizenship

Professional Overview

Self-motivated IT professional with extensive experience across heterogeneous Unix and Linux environments.

Strong background in UNIX and Linux administration, including End-of-Life system migrations, patching, compliance rollouts, virtualization, and automation. Contracts are frequently extended, with managers commonly commenting:

“We give you stuff to do, and you just get on with it.”

Most engagements have involved BAU second-line support responsibilities, acting as liaison between stakeholders, end users, project teams, offshore teams, helpdesks, and suppliers.

Experienced in asset management, virtualization, infrastructure consolidation, and cost reduction initiatives.

Technical Skills

Skill	Level	Experience
Linux (RHEL / Debian / Ubuntu)	Expert	10 Years
Solaris 2.5 – 11 / UNIX	Expert	20 Years
Solaris Virtualisation	Expert	8 Years
Shell & Perl Scripting	Expert	3 Years
Networking	High	3 Years
Firewalls	Good	2 Years

Training & Certifications

Course	Provider	Location
Sun LDOM Virtualisation	Sun Microsystems	Camberley
Solaris 10 Certification	Sun Microsystems	Prometric Testing
Sun E10K Administration	Sun Microsystems	Camberley
Solaris 8 Seminar	Sun Microsystems	Brussels
Solaris 2.x Administration	Sun Microsystems	Sale

Education

Dates	Qualification	Institution	Location
09/1986 – 07/1988	HND Information Technology	Leeds Polytechnic	Leeds
09/1984 – 07/1986	A Levels	Lawnswood High School	Leeds

Languages

Language	Written	Spoken
German	Intermediate	Intermediate
French	Basic	Basic

Professional Experience

Systems Administrator — University of Manchester (Hybrid)

Aug 20216– Nov 2026 (3 Months)

A short term contract to assist with reducing the open ticket count in respect to security remediations. In this role I expected to be patching and upgrading Linux and Solaris servers. In reality my time was spent renewing SSL certificates, updating Apache configs and investigating CVE's and their scope on the Linux base Wordpress infrastructure for hundreds of sites hosted by the University.

Responsibilities

- Assisted with renewing SSL certificates.
- Adapted Apache configs to use SSL where not in use.
- Investigate CVE vulnerabilities.
- Assisted with Solaris 11 patching.
- Use ServiceNow to track tickets.

Main Skills:
Ubuntu, Red Hat, Solaris, Apache, Wordpress, Ansible Automation

Systems Administrator — Virgin Media (WFH)

Jul 2021 – May 2026 (5 Years)

Second long-term contract with Virgin Media, working remotely to support and modernise the Unix/Linux estate. Upgrade existing servers/applications, or migrate platforms to new infrastructure. Also required to complete some Red Hat Openshift training.

Responsibilities

- Assisted with Red Hat in-situ upgrades across enterprise infrastructure
- Expanded support responsibilities to include O2 systems
- Continued virtualization, migration, and automation work from previous Virgin Media engagement
- Supported ongoing long-term technology refresh programmes.
- Support applications teams and developers with server customisation.
- Use Jira and Remedy to track projects and raise change requests.

Main Skills:
Red Hat 7/8/9, Leapp In-Situ Upgrades, Ansible Automation

Linux Systems Administrator — Domestic & General (WFH)

Nov 2020 – Jun 2021 (7 Months)

Contracted to implement a VMware environment build using Ansible Tower and system automation.

Responsibilities

- Built development, production, and pre-production environments within an ESXi cluster
- Automated installation of Helpsystems BoKS IAM platform
- Centralised system access via Active Directory
- Automated application installation and Satellite registration using Ansible
- Developed reusable Linux patching playbooks
- Produced acceptance test evidence and housekeeping automation

Main Skills:
RHEL 8.3, Ansible Tower, BoKS (IAM), Satellite 6.7

Unix Developer — HMRC (WFH / Southend-on-Sea)

Feb 2020 – Sep 2020 (7 Months)

Civil Service contract during lockdown requiring SC Clearance. My role was to work on the processing scripts that send small files between systems using the in house file transfer system known as UTM. Transfers would pass between the IBM mainframe and the Amazon hosted buckets with both encryption and handshaking to ensure the correct files are received, verified and acknowledged.

Responsibilities

- Modified Unix Transfer Manager (UTM) bash scripts

- Updated transfer flows for AWS cloud migration
- Added support for new transfer requirements
- Worked within Agile development practices

Main Skills:
Bash Scripting, Agile, UTM (Unix Transfer Manager)

Systems Administrator — University of Leicester

May 2019 – Aug 2019 (4 Months)

Short-term infrastructure support and documentation contract.

Responsibilities

- Maintained DHCP, Secure DNS, Wi-Fi Gateways, Radius, Proxy Services, and IPTables Firewalls
- Supported authentication systems
- Managed Xen virtualised Debian infrastructure
- Worked with CVS, GPG signing, CFEngine, Squid, Nagios, Elasticsearch, and Apache
- Reverse engineer the existing BIND DHCP system to provide documentation.

Main Skills:
GPG, Bash Scripting, CFEngine, SQL Scripting, DHCP, DNS

Systems Administrator — Virgin Media, Knowsley

May 2015 – Jan 2019 (3 Years 7 Months)

Supported virtualization and migration of nationwide legacy Unix systems.

Responsibilities

- Built Solaris and Linux virtual environments using Zones, LDOMs, and VMware
- Built servers using Kickstart, Jumpstart, and Solaris AI (Automated Installer)
- Automated deployments using Ansible
- Managed migration of End-of-Life systems
- Decommissioned legacy hardware under strict change-control processes
- Assisted Liberty Global integration projects

Main Skills:
Solaris & RHEL Virtualisation, System Migration, Legacy Replacement, Cost Reduction

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Unix Systems Administrator — TNT Express (2nd Contract)

Feb 2013 – May 2015 (2 Years 3 Months)

Supported rollout and maintenance of SAP back-office systems.

Responsibilities

- Assisted third parties with Solaris infrastructure upgrades
- Supported migration toward Solaris Containers and Solaris 11
- Managed upgrade of approximately 150 Solaris 10 servers using ZFS
- Built Solaris 11 Jumpstart repository infrastructure
- Managed HSM keys for SAP and web teams

Main Skills:
Solaris 10 Jumpstart, Veritas Volume Manager, NetBackup

Unix Administrator — Bank of America, Chester

Nov 2012 – Feb 2013 (2 Months)

Short-term cover contract.

Responsibilities

- Maintained HP-UX Connect:Direct infrastructure
- Supported filesystem administration

Main Skills:
HP-UX 11, Connect:Direct

Unix Engineer — Ericsson, Athlone, Ireland

Nov 2011 – Oct 2012 (1 Year)

Worked on Ericsson platform infrastructure services. Provide modifications to the scripts, and update documentation of the Cell Tower install suite to be used by field engineers building cell towers.

Responsibilities

- Developed Bash-based rollout automation
- Automated deployment of cellular network infrastructure
- Produced technical documentation and testing procedures
- Supported rollout solutions for international telecom customers

Main Skills:
VMware ESXi, Solaris Jumpstart, RHEL Kickstart, Bash Automation

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Unix Systems Administrator — Egg.com, Derby

Mar 2009 – Sep 2011 (2 Years 6 Months)

Supported structured decommissioning of Egg.com's data centre following Citi acquisition.

Responsibilities

- Managed strict banking change-control procedures
- Updated asset management systems

- Conducted risk assessments and reporting
- Managed server shutdown and decommissioning
- Removed systems from NIS+, DNS, Patrol, and Nagios
- Migrated remote console access from Telnet to SSH

Main Skills:
Solaris 10, Jumpstart, Nagios, BMC Patrol, Banking Compliance, Migration

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Unix Administrator — BT / Computacenter, Bolton

Feb 2009 – Mar 2009 (2 Weeks)

Short-term implementation support contract.

Responsibilities

- Troubleshot NTP, DNS, SSH, and account configuration issues
- Distributed SSH keys across HP-UX Control-M systems
- Developed shell scripts for automated SFTP housekeeping

Main Skills:
UNIX Administration, System Builds, Configuration

Unix Systems Administrator — TNT Express (1st Contract)

Mar 2007 – Jan 2009 (1 Year 9 Months)

Supported Solaris 9/10 SAP/Oracle back-office environments.

Responsibilities

- Built and commissioned Sun4v systems
- Maintained Jumpstart infrastructure
- Automated server build processes
- Developed centralised configuration management solutions
- Supported LDAP, UNIX, NetBackup, NAS storage, and Veritas Volume Manager
- Conducted DR testing

Main Skills:
Solaris 9/10, Jumpstart, Volume Manager, SDS, DR Testing

Unix Systems Administrator — AAH Pharmaceuticals, Coventry

Jan 2007 – Feb 2007 (1 Month)

Performed technical audits across mixed Unix and Linux environments.

Unix Systems Administrator — Britannia Building Society, Leek

Apr 2006 – Dec 2006 (8 Months)

Provided second-line UNIX support across Solaris and Red Hat Linux infrastructure.

Responsibilities

- Supported Veritas NetBackup and Volume Manager
- Maintained Netscape/Sun ONE mail platform
- Supported legacy T3 storage systems
- Supported Sun E10K decommissioning after migration to Linux.

Unix Systems Administrator — European Central Bank, Frankfurt

May 2005 – Apr 2006 (1 Year)

Delivered second-line Solaris support and project work.

Responsibilities

- Supported NIS+, Veritas Volume Manager, and DiskSuite
- Supported bespoke applications and web servers
- Facilitated hardware replacement activity
- Supported Reuters feed Sybase infrastructure within the Bundesbank

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Unix Systems Integrator — Vivista, Wiltshire

Sep 2004 – May 2005 (8 Months)

Customer-facing systems integration role within secure government environments.

Responsibilities

- Built and deployed secure systems and applications
- Conducted site surveys and installations
- Worked onsite with Durham Police HQ and custody suites
- Delivered implementations under strict timelines

Earlier Career History

Dates	Role	Organisation	Location
12/2003 – 09/2004	Systems Engineer	ITS-Linux	Crewe
07/2003 – 12/2003	Unix Administrator	Pindar	Scarborough
03/2003 – 06/2003	Systems Engineer	ITS-Linux	Crewe
08/2002 – 03/2003	Student	Düsseldorf University	Düsseldorf
10/2001 – 08/2002	Not Contracted	—	—

Dates	Role	Organisation	Location
07/1999 – 10/2001	Unix Administrator	KPN Orange (Base)	Brussels
05/1999 – 06/1999	Unix Administrator	Alenia Marconi	Stanmore
12/1998 – 05/1999	Unix Administrator	Synopsys	Reading / Munich
09/1998 – 11/1998	Unix Administrator	CSC for British Aerospace	Preston
01/1997 – 09/1998	Unix Administrator	EDS for Rolls Royce Aero	Derby
10/1996 – 12/1996	Unix Administrator	Safa	Liverpool
09/1996 – 10/1996	Unix Administrator	Communication Arts	Egham
08/1996 – 09/1996	Unix Administrator	E&P Data Solutions (IBM)	Maidenhead
05/1996 – 08/1996	Unix Administrator	Jaguar Cars	Coventry
05/1995 – 04/1996	Unix Administrator	Hero Drinks	Kegworth
01/1995 – 05/1995	Analyst Programmer	Transax	Edgbaston
09/1992 – 12/1994	Analyst Programmer	Quintech	Sandbach
05/1990 – 08/1992	Analyst Programmer	Barcrest	Ashton-under-Lyne
08/1989 – 04/1990	Analyst Programmer	Symphony Kitchens	Leeds
10/1988 – 07/1989	Analyst Programmer	GEC Sensors	Basildon