

Steve Parker

Certified Unix & Linux Specialist

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Profile

As a Technical Consultant, I am authoritative on medium and high-end UNIX systems design and configuration. With deep and wide knowledge of operating systems, servers, storage and clusters, as well as LAN, SAN and Virtualisation, I have the knowledge and understanding to propose, design and configure high-end systems within multi-million dollar projects. I bring high levels of professionalism, commitment and attention to detail to every project. I match customer requirements with industry best practices to deliver a design and implementation which provides the best of both.

As solutions do not end with a design, I also have excellent troubleshooting skills to address any issues which may arise later on in the project lifecycle.

Key Technologies

- **Unix/Linux** - design, configuration, performance tuning, hardening. Particularly **Solaris** (Solaris 10 SysAdmin, Data Management and Cluster Certified Installer certifications), **Linux** - RedHat Certified Engineer (RHCE).
- **SunCluster** - design, configuration, administration, repair.
- **High-End Servers** (SunFire F25k, M3000-M9000) - design, configuration, administration
- **Volume Servers** (x86, T-Class Servers)
- **Storage / Volume Management**- NAS, DAS, SAN, Veritas, SVM, ZFS, LVM, MD - design, configuration, administration.
- **Programming** - Shell, C, PHP, SQL

Recent Successes

- Author of the Wrox book *Shell Scripting: Expert Recipes for Linux, Bash and more* (ISBN 1118024486)
- Have designed and deployed the Linux strategy and infrastructure for the UK's third largest supermarket, and delivered and supported the first six projects based on that design.
- Wrote software to format Sun iRunbook documentation for publication, which reduced a 5-week Write / Format / Review process into a 1-week Write-and-Review process, increasing the project's profitability dramatically.
- One Sun customer's satisfaction with my E20k design directly led them to nominate Sun as their preferred supplier for high-end UNIX systems and to immediately purchase a further eight E25k servers

Work History

June 2009 - Present: Linux Architect for Sainsbury's (Contract - renewed 7 times)

Consultant designing and implementing a Linux infrastructure to follow on from the existing Solaris environment. I used my deep understanding of Solaris and Linux, as well as SAN, Networking, Clustering, Monitoring and Application requirements to deliver a suitable solution for the business. Defining standards, procedures and best practices for design, deployment, resilience (VCS and Oracle RAC), storage and backup strategy. Delivering documentation and training for Project, Support and Operations staff to build, use, support and extend the design. Having put all of this into place, I have guided through the next six projects using the standards and procedures provided. Also worked on a virtualised Linux design using VMWare, as well as a specialised build to be rolled out to 200 stores.

September 2007 - June 2009: Technical Consultant, iNTEQ Professional Services

For Sun Professional Services, Sun Resellers and other partners, a technical authority providing Enterprise services specialising in design and build of Clusters, High-End Servers (E25K, M3000, M4000, M5000 to M9000) and Volume servers (CMT/Niagara T2000, T5000, X Series).

Designing and implementing Solaris and Linux systems and Clusters, Servers and Storage. Also writing technical (iRunbook) documentation on VMWare ESX, RedHat Enterprise Linux, MySQL and other technologies for Sun.

September 2005 - September 2007: Technical Architect, EDS

Designing Solaris, HP-UX and Linux solutions for ABN/Amro, taking this design through to obtaining quotes, arranging purchase and organising the delivery, installation and configuration of the servers across multiple environments, within EDS and Client datacentres. Providing cost models for the deployment and ongoing support of the implementation.

Also for UK DWP, focusing on high-end Sun servers (E25K and SunCluster), including working with the Unix, SAN and network teams to provide detailed and accurate designs, coordinating across multiple internal departments to provide a single point-of-contact for the project to achieve successful implementation. Working closely with multiple suppliers to design a coherent solution as well as taking a close involvement in the change management process across all environments.

I was also responsible for capacity planning, to ensure that we deployed sufficient capacity for current and planned future workloads. This involved analysing volumetrics and workflow of the application. In one instance, I spent three days working with the customer's solution integrator to correct their TPS figures, correcting their projection from a requirement of an additional 108 CPUs (at a project cost of around £1m) to an additional 16 CPUs, at negligible cost.

June 1999 – September 2005: Technical Consultant, Sun Microsystems via Netops Ltd

Design, onsite installation, configuration and testing of all Sun Professional Services offerings for Sun Microsystems clients in all markets including Financial, Telco, Retail, Utility and Public Sector.

- SunCluster design and installation, HA-API (aka GDS) Scripting
- Full range of Sun Servers, from Netra, Enterprise, E10k, SunFire F12k - E25k and storage; SAN Arrays including Hitachi HDS 9960/9970/9980 arrays. Veritas Volume Manager (VxVM), Solstice DiskSuite (LVM/SVM), Raid Manager.

Also responsible for all aspects of Internet presence of Netops and direct customers, including determining security policies and procedures, configuring, installing and administrating firewall, web server (Apache, ModSSL, PHP, MySQL), mail server, DNS.

September 1998 – May 1999: Systems Specialist, Datel Computing Ltd

AIX and SCO Systems Specialist responsible for providing consultancy, installation, and ongoing maintenance and support of systems running on RS/6000, NetFinity and other servers. Sole company expert in SCO UNIX. Personally responsible for all aspects of the server hardware, operating system, network and networked devices.

May 1997 – September 1998: Unix Installations Engineer, Siemens Nixdorf

Unix and networking for Mercedes, Tesco, Dixons. Taking the role of a Senior Engineer, I replaced the whole network – Unix clients and servers, PCs, printers, and (Unix/X11 client) Electronic Parts Catalogue systems for a Mercedes dealership within one working day without

disrupting the business. This involved co-ordinating a team of 12 engineers to complete the dealership-wide upgrade.

February 1997 – May 1997: Support Engineer, GEC Alsthom Signalling Ltd

Administration of Solaris, Windows and NetWare. Supporting PCs and SPARCstations. Administration and maintenance of Internet gateway, Intranet with Perl CGI scripting, NIS+.

September 1996 – February 1997: PC Support Technician, Refuge Assurance PLC

On-site support for 600 PC users, Windows / NetWare. Programming utilities for SCO UnixWare data-entry system. Administration and installation of the NetWare servers.

June 1994 – June 1995: Validation Engineer, ICL (Sandwich Year as part of Degree)

DRS/NX, SCO, UnixWare and Windows NT validation and certification, specialising in Networking - including TCP/IP, OSI, X21, V24/X25, Token Ring, UUCP.

Working closely with ICL's Unix developers, I got involved with the development team right down to Kernel level. This gave me a great insight into Unix internals. I also wrote a shell script which turned half a day of test preparation work into a two-minute task.

Education / Qualifications

- **BSc. 2(i) (Honours) Computer Science**, University of Hertfordshire (1996)
- **A-Levels in Computer Science, Pure & Applied Mathematics**, General Studies (1992)

- Red Hat Certified Engineer ([805010462746660](http://www.redhat.com/cert/805010462746660))
- Sun Certified Systems Installer for Sun™ Cluster 3.x
- Sun Certified Data Management Engineer - VxVM + SDS
- Sun Certified System Administrator for Solaris 10 OS (Part I & II)

Industry Training

- **SunCluster** 2.2, 3.0 (incl. API), 3.2; Applied SunCluster 3.0 Technologies
- **HDS** 9970/9980 V/Lightning
- **SunFire** 3800-15000 Server Range; Sun E10K; SunFire 15K Admin for SunPS
- Solstice DiskSuite (Solaris LVM) 4.2.1 Update, Veritas VxVM 3.2 Update
- Sun SKIP, EFS, FPS Firewall

Other Technologies

- **Solaris**: Author of tools including <http://sgpit.com/smf>, <http://steve-parker.org/vxvm>.
- **Linux**: Active community member 1996 - Present. Creator of <http://speedtouchconf.sourceforge.net/> and other projects.
- AIX, *BSD Unix, DRS/NX, SCO OpenServer and UnixWare, HP-UX, SINIX.
- Unix / Linux Community: Bourne shell tutorial at <http://steve-parker.org/sh/sh.shtml> . I also write <http://nixshell.wordpress.com/> at more of an introductory level.

Personal Details

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