Aron Griffis

aron@scampersand.com • 857.600.0758 • Providence, RI

Summary

- Twenty years experience building reliable software and strong relationships.
- Versatile, articulate, pragmatic and driven.
- Fluent in Python, Django, PostgreSQL, JavaScript, React, D3, Vagrant, Docker, Heroku.
- Prolific open source contributor.

Career

Principal   Scampersand, 2016

Scampersand is a micro-agency building software and solving problems for clients. Drawing on my broad experience, I'm able to hit the ground running in a variety of complex technical environments. I dive deep to find workable solutions amid complicated requirements and constraints. Working with my partner Amy, we deliver software that is secure, understandable and maintainable for the long term.

Chief Architect, Brevi   SMBapps, 2015-2016

Brevi simplifies Facebook advertising for small business. Taking advantage of vertical partner API integration, Brevi helps businesses create Facebook ads quickly with product, offer and links pre-filled.

- Delivered OAuth and API integration with six separate partners.
- Developed a React-based interview to collect business details prior to ad generation.
- Wrote a high-performance batching client for the Facebook Graph and Marketing API.
- Selected by Facebook as a Marketing Developer Ninja, one of only 40 worldwide.

Freelance, PagePart   Griffis Web Tech, 2012-2015

I was contracted by PagePart, a startup, to build a mobile website editor. A small business owner could sign in with Facebook to generate their initial site using existing Facebook data, after which they could customize the site extensively. A snippet of JavaScript on the original website would detect mobile browsers and redirect to the mobile-friendly PagePart rendering.

- Developed the mobile site generator and editor, integrating with Facebook, Twitter and Google Maps.
- Designed and implemented white label, so that partners could resell PagePart to their clients.
- Migrated deployment from WebFaction to dotCloud and eventually Heroku.

Web Developer, HP ePrintCenter   Hewlett-Packard, 2010-2012

ePrintCenter is the customer web site for configuring HP's web-connected printers, as well as the web services behind the scenes to support those printers. I joined the team as a developer and grew into the role of technical lead for Python/Django projects involving ePrintCenter.

- Led development of an HTTP/REST back-end service to streamline the printer application life cycle. The service uses pervasive caching to handle a high volume of requests, and it's entirely covered by unit tests.
- Implemented ePrintCenter exception handling to connect back-end service failures to end user messaging using Python decorators and AJAX.
- Developed localized caching of ePrintCenter using Akamai to cut the load on the Apache servers in half.
- Built a production replica cluster to stage deployments, including upgrading Django and South.

Security Lead, Open Source and Linux Profession   Hewlett-Packard, 2009-2010

The OSLP is a formally-recognized collaboration between engineers inside HP, working across organizational boundaries to enable Linux as a viable platform in a predominately Windows environment.

- Led development of an externally-facing HTTP proxy accessible using SSL tunnels with PKCS#11 smart card, certificate-based authentication. This remote access service is now running as a pilot within HP.
- Worked with HP-IT to form a long-term plan to deploy OpenVPN for HP's non-Windows teleworkers.

Linux Virtualization Engineer   Hewlett-Packard, 2006-2010

HP makes high-end machines with large core counts and memory, ideal for virtualization.

- Led a successful cross-company effort (HP, Intel, Fujitsu, Red Hat) porting Xen/IA64 into RHEL 5, including Linux kernel patches and bootloader changes to use the hypervisor.
- Delivered a reference architecture based on the DL785 (a 48-core beast with 256 GB memory) running RHEL 5.4 with KVM. My NUMA-tuned configuration achieved sub-second response with 256 simultaneous guests. The white paper was published by both Red Hat and HP to meet a tight market-driven schedule.
- Wrote "tiler" utility (Bash) and parallelized test harness (Ruby) for VM provisioning and load testing, in support of building the reference architecture.

Linux Security Engineer   Hewlett-Packard, 2004-2006

Selling Linux into government and high finance requires officially-recognized security certifications. I wrote the "audit-test" harness (Bash) and "augrok" tool (Perl) which were used for successful CAPP and LSPP certifications at the time, and are still being used today for ongoing certification efforts by HP.

Tru64 UNIX Kernel Developer   Compaq, 1999-2004

Tru64 was a high-performance UNIX running on the Alpha processor. I joined the network team to develop the Ethernet drivers used by NASA, 911 call centers, stock market exchanges and major telephone carriers.

- Wrote Tigon3 Gigabit Ethernet driver consisting of 13k lines of threaded C, including a custom high-performance interrupt mitigation algorithm.
- Designed and implemented 64-bit network counters with backward-compatible ioctls.
- Debugged critical network driver issues for Ericsson and Motorola telco releases.

Network Engineer   Burlington Coat Factory, 1997-1998

At Burlington Coat Factory, I developed a unified printing system based on LPRng with the ability to print to any printer in the company, including the stores, from anywhere on the network. I also played a key role in helping BCF migrate from SunOS to Linux in the stores by prototyping the store back-end server using Red Hat Linux on SPARC.

Open Source

I have contributed to all the major Linux distributions and numerous upstream projects such as GNOME, Spacemacs, Vagrant and VCR.py. Below are some of my favorites.

Django-Allauth

Allauth is the leading social authentication package for Django. I've made heavy use of django-allauth in client projects, especially writing custom OAuth2 providers, and I've contributed bug fixes and enhancements upstream, especially for the Facebook provider.

Mixpanel-Celery

Mixpanel provides analytics as a service. I'm a maintainer for mixpanel-celery, which enables Python applications to asynchronously send Mixpanel events by tossing them on a Celery queue.

Gentoo Linux   2001-2007

Gentoo is a source-based Linux distribution, so the system builds a customized version of itself on your machine rather than installing pre-built binary packages. I was one of the first developers to join the Gentoo team and played key roles in its development and leadership. During my tenure, I had more than 13,500 commits to the Gentoo source repository.

Education

Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science   Taylor University, 1994-1999

Concentration in Intelligent Systems. CS network administrator as a freshman onward.