

James Johnson

Systems Engineer III / Senior Systems Engineer

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Professional Summary

Friendly neighborhood systems engineer; proactively preventing one outage at a time to protect our local community. Huge proponent of open source and compliance!

Authorized to work in the US for any employer

Work Experience

Systems Engineer

CBIT-Kennewick, WA

March 2025 to September 2025

Responsibilities and Duties • Manage and maintain Windows-based networks, including workstations and servers (Windows Server 2012-2025).

- Design, implement, and oversee Active Directory and Group Policy configurations.
- Administer network infrastructure, including firewalls, routing, switching, VLANs, DHCP, DNS, and SMTP.
- Maintain accurate documentation and manage ticketing from inception to resolution. This also involved ticket system automation.
- Utilize cloud platforms such as Microsoft O365 and Azure for service management and migrations.
- Troubleshoot software issues and support virtual environments using Microsoft Hyper-V.
- Configure and maintain server hardware, including RAID setups, and implement backup and disaster recovery solutions.
- Manage endpoint security, VPN configurations, wireless networks, and VoIP systems.
- Support data center operations and ISP networks.
- Participate in on-call rotations and provide multi-level helpdesk support (L1, L2, L3)
- Lead IT projects and ensure compliance with company policies and best practices

Soft Skills

- Professional and patient demeanor with strong communication abilities. Often solo in projects and in the field.
- High customer service orientation and ability to explain complex technical issues clearly.
- Effective multitasking, prioritization, and attention to detail.
- Self-motivated and capable of working independently with clear decision-making skills.

Toolset Administrator

Kalleo Technologies-Paducah, KY

October 2023 to January 2025

- Serve as primary external escalation for client communication and technical account management, preserving SLAs and driving customer satisfaction through clear status reporting and issue ownership.
- Rigorously follow and improve internal processes and documentation; produce operational runbooks, post-mortems, and change logs to enhance repeatability and auditability.

- Maintain and deepen client relationships via proactive health checks, security posture reviews, and technical guidance tied to business outcomes.
- Design, troubleshoot, and harden L2/L3 networking: DNS (zone delegation, split-horizon), subnetting, routing, NAT/PAT, and stateful packet inspection with remote desktop applications.
- Manage Microsoft 365 and Azure tenancy operations: licensing, identity and access policies (Conditional Access, MFA), Intune/Endpoint Manager configuration, and tenant security posture.
- Formal change management automation: scope changes, author RFCs, coordinate maintenance windows, and validate post-change acceptance criteria.
- Plan and execute cross-platform toolset migrations (PSA/RMM/EDR/backup/mail/security stacks), including migration runbooks, cutover coordination, and rollback plans.
- Own patch management strategy and execution: schedule maintenance windows, validate compliance (RTO/RPO), troubleshoot failures, and implement remediation automation.
- Coordinate consistent after-hours maintenance and application update windows to minimize business impact while ensuring regulatory and SLA compliance.
- Interpret and apply technical manuals, OEM guides, and vendor KBs to implement supported configurations and escalate appropriately when hardware/firmware issues arise.
- Contribute technical input to architecture and periodic review meetings; translate technical risks into mitigation plans for stakeholders.
- Train and mentor junior engineers: develop onboarding materials, lead technical training sessions, and perform regular competency assessments.
- Maintain a yearly professional development plan and pursue certifications to align team capabilities with evolving client needs and threat landscape.
- Perform other duties as required, with emphasis on preserving service continuity, security, and client trust.

Systems Engineer III / Senior Systems Engineer

Inline Computer and Communication-Richland, WA

February 2023 to October 2023

- Provided L2/L3 support for core business applications and operating systems (Windows Server, Active Directory, Linux), diagnosing root cause and restoring service with a focus on minimizing MTTR.
- Designed, implemented and tested disaster recovery and business continuity plans (backup orchestration, replication, failover testing), maintaining documented RTO/RPO targets.
- Administered and troubleshooted enterprise WAN/LAN infrastructure, including routing, switching, firewall and security policy enforcement to ensure availability and segmentation.
- Implemented and supported secure remote access solutions (VPN, Terminal Services, Citrix), including capacity planning, access control and multi-factor authentication.
- Monitored environment via RMM; triaged alerts, converted incidents to prioritized service tickets and escalated per SLA.
- Maintained system documentation, runbooks and change logs; performed scheduled maintenance windows and post-change reviews.
- Communicated incident status, planned maintenance and outages to stakeholders; coordinated cross-team remediation and customer notifications.
- Scoped, estimated and quoted IT projects and change requests, producing technical proposals, BOMs and implementation timelines.
- Implementation and optimization of 60 GHZ wireless and PTMP WISP setups.

IT Manager

Advantage IT Services-Richland, WA

July 2021 to February 2023

Promoted from the Systems Administrator position. This position has lots of hats and I have it broken down into a few sections.

Sales

- Documentation of Scoping Templates
- Helping create standardized hardware and sizing

- New client scoping, pricing, and on-boarding
- Lots of client based cyber security awareness and helping understand the importance of modern security in rapid changing environments
- In-depth knowledge of agreement types, agreement profitability and utilization.
- Implementation and integration of Infrastructure opportunity management systems

Support

- In-depth on-prem MS Exchange knowledge with redundant mail servers and routing
- In-depth BCDR designs, deployments, and documentation
- Linux server administration and migrations to cloud
- Virtualization and containerization (Docker + K3s)
- L3 Networking, DNS Failover, Load Balancing + WAN Failover
- In-depth knowledge of Unifi product stack, troubleshooting + adoption, and cloud controller setups, and best practice settings
- Automated software deployments including Microsoft Office Suite
- In-depth SSL VPN, Sonic Wall SMA, and RSAS VPN knowledge and configuration
- Advanced time management and multi-tasking
- Strong focus on great customer support AND documentation
- Security incident and response management
- Constant application of OSI model when troubleshooting complex or new systems.
- Constant application of CIS controls to improve overall help-desk compliance and security

Projects

- Completed around 25 Host upgrades last year in addition to my other duties.
- Lots of 2008 R2 + SBS Migrations with in-depth domain decommissioning
- Multiple full Unifi deployments and migrations
- Multi phase project scoping based on PMI practices
- Project triaging and managing 4 other project resources for scheduling
- Multiple office moves and new construction moves
- Multi location / client expansion projects and assistance

Company Improvement

- Sea-Level MSP Operations Coaching - April 2022 to Present
- Bi-weekly coaching meetings with 5-10 hours of additional homework per week
- ConnectWise Manage Migration and Team Training
- Documentation System Migration
- Large company documentation improvement and structuring
- Daily application of 4 levers of gross margin to service desk
- 5+ Hours of focused team training per week [1 hour for 1 tech each day]
- Strong focus on ITIL / Best Practices and applying them to our service desk daily
- Strong focus on company vision, values, and improvement
- Radical Candid based management and application

Systems Administrator

Advantage IT Services-Richland, WA

April 2021 to July 2021

- Systems Administrator — maintained critical infrastructure and resolved high-priority domain and network incidents to minimize downtime.

- Led migrations of email spam filtering systems (vendor-agnostic) to improve deliverability and reduce false positives.
- Replaced legacy backup platform (ShadowProtect) with a modern backup/replication solution, improving restore reliability and RTOs.
- Rapidly deployed and configured EDR across endpoints to establish baseline detection and automated remediation.
- Executed multiple Windows Server 2008 R2 domain upgrades and consolidated SBS domains with decommission planning.
- Oversaw NAS vendor migrations and data synchronization with minimal disruption to production services.
- Managed SonicWall appliances: firewall policies, VPNs, throughput/security tuning, and license renewals.
- Scoped hardware, managed procurement, and led infrastructure projects as a single contributor/project lead.
- Focused on long-term client satisfaction and strengthening information security posture.

Cyber Security Analyst

Devfuzion-Kennewick, WA

April 2020 to April 2021

- Tier 3 Technician — Secured customer endpoints, servers, and networks; provided cross-tier escalation and technical guidance to support, projects, and engineering teams.
- Performed domain and infrastructure hardening and cleanup (AD hygiene, GPO consolidation, certificate and DNS remediation).
- Led cloud migrations and secure hybrid deployments with Azure AD, Intune, and Azure Conditional Access.
- Designed and deployed Azure MFA and Conditional Access policies to enforce least-privilege and adaptive authentication.
- Served as internal SME for ConnectWise workflows and PSA/RMM integrations to improve ticketing and remediation automation.
- Authored security documentation, IRT runbooks, and incident response procedures; supported NIST, PCI, and HIPAA compliance activities.
- Self-directed CrowdStrike Falcon training through CrowdStrike University to deepen EDR response and threat-hunting capability.

PSA / Support Technician

Teknologize-Richland, WA

April 2019 to April 2020

- Provided client IT support and led internal platform improvement projects, specializing in automation and tooling.
- Developed PowerShell automation to remediate recurring incidents and enforce standard configurations across endpoints.
- Implemented time-tracking automation via PSA/RMM integrations to automatically automation technician time and ticket activity.
- Executed domain and data cleanup initiatives using SQL queries, AD/OU hygiene scripts, and bulk change tooling.
- Built Windows deployment solutions: Appx packaging, Win32/Provisioning Package assembly (ICD/WICD/Autopilot or MDT), and BYOC imaging workflows.
- Created repeatable runbooks to reduce manual effort and standardize service desk tasks.

Support Technician

MDToolbox-Richland, WA

March 2018 to March 2019

- Led end-to-end EPCS onboarding for clinicians: guided providers through electronic prescription workflows, completed identity proofing (IDA/IAP and supplemental manual verification), and shipped/activated hardware MFA tokens to meet DEA/HIPAA compliance.
- Troubleshoot EPCS enrollment issues and resolved identity-verification exceptions (manual verification), reducing provider time-to-first-prescription. Escalated complex cases to engineering/security as required.
- Managed hardware token lifecycle—inventory coordination, secure shipping, activation, and replacement—while documenting chain-of-custody and support tickets in the ticketing system.
- Delivered targeted user training and written procedures for EPCS MFA usage and troubleshooting; produced how-to documentation to lower repeat support requests.

Education

High school diploma

Science Hill High School-Johnson City, TN

January 2014 to May 2016

Skills

- SonicWALL (3 years)
- Azure (6 years)
- EHR (5 years)
- Kubernetes (3 years)
- EMR (3 years)
- Linux (3 years)
- IIS (4 years)
- Sales (4 years)
- High availability architecture (5 years)
- Unifi (6 years)
- Microsoft Windows Server (6 years)
- MariaDB (4 years)
- SharePoint (6 years)
- Microsoft SQL Server (4 years)
- VMWare (3 years)
- Active Directory (5 years)

Certifications and Licenses

Datto Certified Advanced Technician

November 2021 to November 2022

Datto Certificate Deployment Specialist

November 2021 to November 2022