Jenis Grindstaff

Senior Systems Development Engineer

Infrastructure integration | Deployment automation | Software engineering

Durham, NC | jenis@gstaff.org | jenis.org

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Systems development engineer with Dell EMC's PowerFlex engineering team since 2017, combining infrastructure integration with software design and development. Experience spans compute, networking, storage, and cloud, with a focus on deployment readiness, automation, and technical documentation. Independently designs and builds infrastructure tools in Python and Go, along with native iOS and web applications.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Dell EMC

Aug 2017 - Present

Senior Systems Development Engineer

- Contribute to rack elevations, cabling, cooling, and factory staging/build workflows across PowerFlex Rack, Appliance, Software, and Custom Node offerings.
- Integrate PowerEdge compute, networking, storage, and cloud capabilities within a platform team, working across VMware vSphere, Linux, Nutanix Cloud Platform, and AWS.
- Co-author and validate architecture, physical planning, installation, administration, and upgrade documentation. Maintain compatibility matrices and upgrade paths, including RCM and Intelligent Catalog guidance.
- Automate Ansible management-cluster deployments across Rack, Appliance, and Edge; develop IPv4/IPv6 orchestration proofs of concept and internal discovery, validation, deployment, and documentation tools.
- Coordinate release readiness with Product Management, QA, professional services, and field enablement. Deliver architecture briefings and engineering knowledge-transfer sessions each release cycle.
- Troubleshoot integrated-platform issues and mentor engineers; previously served as the team's Scrum Master.

TECHNICAL TOOLKIT

Platforms: PowerFlex, PowerEdge, VMware vSphere, Red Hat Enterprise Linux, SUSE Linux Enterprise, Nutanix Cloud Platform, AWS.

Infrastructure: Rack integration, Cisco Nexus/NX-OS, cabling, cooling, compatibility planning, and hardware/OS validation.

Automation: Ansible, iDRAC/Redfish, REST APIs, IPv4/IPv6, Docker, Kubernetes, Git, and automated testing.

Software projects: Python, Go, FastAPI, Flask, SwiftUI, SwiftData, PostgreSQL, and SQLite.

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SELECTED WORK & CAREER BACKGROUND

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SELECTED ENGINEERING PROJECTS

Sole designer and developer of all engineering and personal applications featured below.

PreFlex

Go | Redfish | Live Linux

Built a predeployment validation tool that boots PowerEdge nodes through iDRAC/Redfish into a live Linux environment. Checks NIC links and speed, LLDP cabling redundancy, LACP/bonds, DNS/NTP, connectivity, and jumbo-frame MTU; generates per-node evidence and remediation reports.

PowerLab

Python | FastAPI

Developed a lab portal connecting inventory, monitoring, switch configuration, DNS, and iDRAC/Redfish with node imaging and deployment workflows.

ReFlex

Python | Document workflows

Developed an engineering documentation pipeline with PDF-to-Markdown conversion, AI quality review, version tracking, cross-document checks, and a review dashboard.

PERSONAL SOFTWARE PROJECTS

Cathode: TV and film tracking with a shared Go backend, PostgreSQL, an htmx web interface, and a native SwiftUI client.
GFlux: A native SwiftUI reader for Miniflux, with SwiftData caching and WidgetKit support.
Diary: A Markdown journal archive with a Go home server and a native SwiftUI client supporting offline capture and synchronization.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

SMT

May 2010 - Aug 2017

Salesforce Administrator / Developer / Web Developer | May 2016 - Aug 2017
Led Salesforce rollout, administration, and custom application development for 75 users across three divisions; gathered requirements and estimated development effort.

Systems Analyst | Sep 2013 - Aug 2017
Served as SMT's first Systems Analyst, working directly with the account management team and clients from requirements definition through successful project completion. Translated customer requests into hardware requirements, system specifications, and diagrams for business proposals. Supported TV studio architecture and installations, including on-set work and face-to-face client engagement.

Quality Control Manager of Systems and Software | Jul 2012 - Sep 2013
Managed QA/QC workflow and scheduling for six engineers. Oversaw cloning, testing, and configuration of more than 200 remote machines annually, maintained system images, and provided Tier 2 support.

Quality Control Engineer | May 2010 - Jul 2012
Designed system and software test scenarios, configured client environments and build servers, and bundled deployment software at an average of 100 releases per week.

EARLIER LEADERSHIP & ATHLETICS

YMCA - Sports Director | 2006 - 2009
Directed community sports programs at Banks D. Kerr YMCA and Finley YMCA, managing programs, staff, and volunteer coaches.

Basketball: Played at the University of Tennessee and professionally; coached at the collegiate and high school levels.