

# JOHN HUDSON

*DevOps Specialist with commercial and leadership skills*

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## *Profile*

I have been researching and gaining in-depth practical experience with Linux and Windows based applications since the last century. My long commercial experience and firm technological grounding in combining open source with profitable offerings from leading vendors facilitates the task of differentiation to gain competitive advantage. I now leverage open source and powerful automation tools using DevOps principles to help build a modern UK Parliament fit for the twenty first century.

[Linkedin Profile](#) :: [The Thoughts of John Hudson!](#)

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## *Skills*

### **Deep Practical Experience**

#### **Current Technologies**

- Automation: Ansible, Git, GoCD, Terraform, Packer
- Collaboration: Jira, Confluence, Slack
- Scripting: Bash, Python, Ruby
- App Development: Node.js, Python
- Replication: GlusterFS
- Web: Nginx, Apache, Varnish, HAProxy, KeepAlive
- Virtualisation: VMWare Vcenter, Amazon AWS (Certified AWS Developer)
- Databases: MySQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Amazon RDS
- Monitoring: DataDog, AWS CloudWatch, Zabbix, Monit, New Relic, Elastic Stack.
- Email: Postfix, Amazon SES
- Identity Management: FreeIPA, Ipsilon, Active Directory
- DNS: Active Directory, Bind and Amazon Route 53
- CloudFlare CDM, Fastly CDN using Varnish VCL
- Windows Server 2008-2016

#### **Other Technologies**

- Windows Server 2000-2012, Exchange, SharePoint, IIS
- Cisco PIX, ASA, IOS
- Development on .Net platform using Visual Studio, VB.Net/ C#, LINQ and JQuery
- Internetworking including subnetting and routing
- Intrusion Detection: Cisco, Forefront and Snort
- Telephony: Lync, Asterisk, 3CX
- Automation: Chef, Jenkins, Puppet, Capistrano

**UK Parliament**

**2017 to Present**

DevOps Lead

It has been an exciting time at Parliament leading a team of experienced engineers. I arrived in time to oversee the migration of a large estate of Windows servers from a legacy data centre to Amazon AWS. In addition I have led the creation of a platform using clusters of Docker containers running micro-services for a new beta website. I have introduced a layered approach to automation to allow developers to test, stage and push their code to production with zero downtime and robust functional testing. I have created a secure self-service mechanism using LDAP, public key and multi-factor authentication to allow developers and other stakeholders to access a range of tools, dashboards and monitoring portals. I have designed and led the development of a dashboard framework to allow diverse groups of stakeholders to securely view key metrics at a glance. I liaise with other teams and suppliers in order to produce a robust platform which will withstand the scrutiny of our external accreditors.

**Matches Fashion**

2014 to Present

DevOps Specialist

Providing Linux administration and DevOps services within an Agile development environment. I work continuously with automation using Chef, Git, Jenkins and Terraform. I have scripted many new processes including email archiving, cloud backups, Slack integration and access control lists. I have championed and improved identity management by integrating user access control of applications, e.g. Jira, Confluence, Gitlab through Active Directory and FreeIPA. I work with hypervisors through VMWare VCenter and AWS EC2. I build containers using Docker, Consul, Docker Swarm and Terraform.

I have gained good experience with Java applications and memory management including Hybris, Apache Solr and Mule using tuning tools like VisualVM and Jconsole. I help manage and provide on-call support for the web framework and which includes Nginx, Apache, Varnish caching, HAProxy, Keepalived and the Fastly content delivery network which uses Varnish Control Language for configuration.

I use Kibana via the ELK stack to monitor logs for intrusion and other events.

I also manage our secondary stack which uses NodeJs, MongoDB and various frameworks including Angular and Express.

**help4IT**

2004 – 2014

Technology Director

I was one of the founders and have had a pivotal role in building a profitable IT outsourcing company providing services to small and medium sized businesses from scratch.

I have maintained a major hands-on role, moving from routine to 3<sup>rd</sup> line support, major projects and the architecture of our own infrastructure and systems.

As business grew I managed technical recruitment, training, hardware and services procurement. I built a team of technicians including a layer of first-line management, allowing me to maintain a senior hands-on role.

I have worked extensively with Windows 2000-2012 Server and major back office applications including Exchange, SQL, Lync, SharePoint, SCOM and SCCM. I have researched Microsoft best practice through TechNet and integrated it into our own systems and procedures. I have developed our own systems using SharePoint, SQL, VB.Net and JQuery.

However, help4IT although profitable were struggling to grow and are facing mounting costs. I took the opportunity to leave through voluntary redundancy, reducing costs for help4IT and allowing me to use my skills and take on a new challenge.

**IT Lab**

2003-2004

Sales Team Manager

A progressive IT services organisation with ambitious plans and generous funding

Recruited to build and consolidate a major accounts team with credible pre-sales and relationship building skills. I would have stayed longer but the opportunity to start help4IT was too good to miss.

**Lanz**

1999-2003

Sales Manager

IT System integrator, Cisco networking specialist and ISP

My first job in IT! I was recruited to build a sales team and give a firm foundation to business growth. Reaching a team of six we helped many companies transition from legacy dial-up and networking to leased lines and Ethernet & TCP/IP using Cisco and Microsoft technologies. I took Cisco and Microsoft training courses, gaining a CCDA in order to provide myself with an effective pre-sales ability. My interest and ability in the technical side of IT became firmly established.

*Education***University of Greenwich**

1992-1995

Master Business Administration

**University of Kent at Canterbury**

1977-1980

BSc. Hons. 2.1 Microbiology

*Interests*

At home I have a Linux KVM/Docker virtual infrastructure which would put many commercial organisations to shame. This allows me to experiment with emerging technologies in my own time. When I am not experimenting with computers I play the saxophone and love sailing in my Sport 14 Dinghy.