

FRÉDÉRIC FOKAN

Linux System Engineer | 25+ Years
Experience

*DevOps | Kubernetes | Infrastructure
Automation | CI/CD*

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Born 27 Oct 1972, Namur (BE) • Belgian, Swiss C Permit • Father of two • Driving licence (Cat B)

PROFILE

Linux System Engineer with 25+ years of experience across enterprise IT, telecom and e-commerce environments (IBM, World Economic Forum, Nespresso, RTS, VTX). Strong background in infrastructure automation (Ansible, Puppet, Red Hat Satellite), virtualization (VMware, Proxmox), containerization (Kubernetes, Docker) and CI/CD pipelines (Jenkins, ArgoCD, GitOps). Currently dedicating time to a self-driven upskilling program covering cloud-native, security and AI automation. ITIL v3 and LPIC-1 certified.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Homelab & Self-Upskilling

Epalinges, Switzerland — Personal infrastructure

- ▶ Designed and operate a multi-node Proxmox VE cluster running Kubernetes (K8s), with ArgoCD for GitOps-based deployments and Ansible for configuration management.
- ▶ Built a reproducible IaC stack: workloads deployed declaratively from Git, with separate dev / prod overlays.
- ▶ Deployed end-to-end zero-trust access: Pangolin (reverse proxy with Traefik), Authelia (SSO / MFA), CrowdSec (behavioral firewall + AppSec WAF), WireGuard for VPN.
- ▶ Hardened public-facing services with Fail2ban, automated SSL renewal (Let's Encrypt) and centralized authentication via LDAP.
- ▶ Self-hosted local LLMs with Ollama on NVIDIA GPU; integrated Claude Code (Anthropic) for agentic ops workflows and built OpenClaw as a multi-tenant AI gateway.
- ▶ Automated personal and infrastructure workflows with n8n (Telegram notifications, Gmail filtering, scheduled jobs).
- ▶ Stack monitored with Prometheus, Grafana and Uptime Kuma; alerting routed through a Telegram bot for real-time response.
- ▶ Hands-on practice with cloud-native patterns (declarative deployments, observability-as-code, secrets management) directly transferable to enterprise DevOps roles.

VTX SA | Linux System Engineer

02.2024 - 12.2024 • CDI • Pully, Switzerland

- ▶ Entire migration of Net4all ISP to VTX ISP.
- ▶ Full inventory of servers and services (remotely and physically at Equinix Datacenter).
- ▶ Scheduling of maintenance with different internal VTX teams and Net4all customers.
- ▶ Creation of reboot-proof scripts to gather all useful information and back up routes, network config, firewall rules, running services, mount points, etc.
- ▶ Full management of VMotion of servers between Net4all and VTX infrastructure after VLAN extension (handled in collaboration with Network Engineer).
- ▶ Working in parallel in a team of 3 Linux System admins on: Linux-level updates (VMware & Proxmox), IaaS provisioning through VMware vCloud, Synology NAS setup for customers, customer inquiries on SSL certificates, mail and server resource usage.
- ▶ Creation of a PoC for Wazuh (open-source XDR/SIEM unifying endpoint and cloud workload protection).

TanIT Service SA → RTS | System Expert & Infrastructure

02.2023 - 07.2023 • CDD • Geneva, Switzerland

- ▶ Installation and configuration of a central Red Hat Satellite Server 6.8 for RTS.
- ▶ Creation of Ansible roles for Satellite: auto-deployment of RHEL 8 capsules under the RTS zoning concept (VLAN-firewalled), and of RHEL 9 VMware templates hardened with OpenSCAP (FlexNet, CheckMK agent, RTS-specific tooling).
- ▶ Installation and configuration of a new monitoring server running CheckMK 2.1p25.
- ▶ Creation of Ansible roles for CheckMK: auto-deployment of probes and agents on all RHEL 9 servers, registered to zone-specific probes under the RTS zoning infrastructure.
- ▶ Ansible role for Active Directory integration (media.int): RHEL 9 domain join, sysadmin authentication and group management from AD.

Figeas SA → Assura | System Engineer

11.2022 - 12.2022 • CDI • Lausanne, Switzerland

Nespresso (Nestlé) | Senior Linux System Admin → Lead Consultant

02.2014 - 09.2022 • Lausanne, Switzerland

Wipro Limited – Lead Consultant Band C1, Senior Linux System Admin @ Nespresso

02.2017 - 09.2022 • CDI

Nespresso eService — System Admin (06.2020 - 09.2022)

- ▶ Management of Nespresso Akamai CDN (update / maintenance of new and old projects, new subdomains, performance caching policy, ...).
- ▶ Management of Kubernetes K8s Cluster & Service for Nespresso IoT Devices and for Nespresso Reorder.
- ▶ Patch management of the Nespresso Israeli website (Magento & MySQL).
- ▶ Patch management of some Nespresso customer websites (WordPress, Typo3, ...).
- ▶ Management of Red Hat migration from RH6 to RH7 for the entire server farms.
- ▶ Involved in Nestlé Oracle and Datacenter move.
- ▶ Partially involved in new CI/CD solution running with K8s, ArgoCD and GitOps.

Nespresso Middleware — System Admin (02.2017 - 06.2020)

- ▶ Manage Nespresso middleware applications eCommerce platform for production and non-prod environments (NC2, NC3, DAM, ACM, ...) — OS patching (Red Hat), rollout, quarterly release, weekly change.
- ▶ Manage and implement new incoming IT projects.
- ▶ On-call support (3rd level) on middleware and e-commerce applications.
- ▶ Migration of many applications with minimum impact on business continuity.
- ▶ Puppet module maintenance for all internal modules (hybris, haproxy, nginx, varnish, nesclub2, ecom, ...).
- ▶ Development of Rundeck & Jenkins jobs, bash scripts, Puppet config, HAProxy config, Varnish config (administration, support, ...).

Blue-Infinity — Senior Linux System Admin @ Nespresso

02.2014 - 02.2017 • CDI

- ▶ Responsible for eCommerce platform NC2 & NC3 (patching, 3rd-level support, rollout, ...).
- ▶ Puppet module maintenance for all internal modules.
- ▶ Responsible for Atlassian products: Jira, Confluence, Stash/bitbucket (administration, upgrade, module config, support, ...).
- ▶ Development of Rundeck & Jenkins jobs, bash scripts, Puppet config, ...

Linalis → **International Labour Office** | *Linux System Admin*

05.2013 - 12.2013 • *CDD* • *Geneva, Switzerland*

- ▶ In charge of the migration of all Linux SLES servers to last service release packs (SLES 9 SP1 → SP4; SLES 10 SP1 → SP4; SLES 11 SP1 → SP2).
- ▶ Concerned 200 servers running applications such as Apache, Zope, Oracle, ...
- ▶ In charge of implementation of a centralized authentication solution against Windows AD (LDAPS, PAM) and enhancement of Linux system logging, sudo integration.
- ▶ Linux support.

Abissa → **World Economic Forum** | *Linux System Specialist*

09.2012 - 11.2012 • *CDD* • *Cologny, Switzerland*

- ▶ Zabbix map and triggers creation for monitoring all systems (ESX servers, virtual and physical servers, network devices) and services based in China, New-York and Geneva.
- ▶ Creation of a kiosk system under Linux for World Economic Forum conferences.
- ▶ System administration and support for administrating Linux servers.
- ▶ Support 1st & 2nd level (Windows Server, laptops, BlackBerry) to World Economic Forum users.

Adecco → **IBM SA CAB** | *IT Specialist Scheduler*

01.2011 - 12.2011 • *CDD* • *Prilly, Switzerland*

- ▶ Scheduling through Control-M & monitoring of IBM AIX / Windows systems for Deutsche Bank Switzerland.
- ▶ Daily administrative tasks: backup, database & application restores, application updates through scripts, file transfer, ...
- ▶ Working alone and in team, daily shifts (6am-2pm, 2pm-8pm, 8pm-6am) and on-call on weekends and when necessary.

Linalis → **BOBST SA** | *Linux System Engineer*

06.2010 - 12.2010 • *CDD* • *Prilly, Switzerland*

- ▶ Second-level IT support for resolution of all Bobst daily issues.
- ▶ Responsible during the time there of all specific Linux & UNIX issue resolution.
- ▶ Creation of optimized SLES Linux VMware templates (SLES 10 SP3, SLES 11 SP0 & SP1) containing all Bobst tools (Networker backup, UC4 scheduler, Oracle DB, Zabbix agent, ...) deployed with a bash script setting up servers in one step.
- ▶ Creation of optimized Debian load-balancer VMware templates using HAProxy & Heartbeat cluster technology, with Bobst tools, deployed via a 10-step interactive script and monitored through new specific Zabbix templates.
- ▶ Responsible for upgrade of the Bobst SAP Veritas cluster: SLES 11 SP0 AutoYaST deployment with post-script Bobst software installation.
- ▶ Development & installation of open-source solutions and scripts.
- ▶ Wrote and updated extensive documentation and how-tos for Bobst internal usage.

Léman Emploi | *System Administrator*

10.2009 - 12.2009 • *CDD* • *Geneva, Switzerland*

- ▶ Migration of existing Linux web server to a bulletproof solution using Debian and Linux software RAID as first level of backup.
- ▶ Migration of existing workgroup to a complete domain controller using domain policy, user policy and managing domain DNS.
- ▶ Creation of automated backup script using tar (compression), SFTP and GPG (encryption) to a remote Infomaniak web server.
- ▶ Administration of internal web server portals running with MySQL, PHP 5 and Apache 2.
- ▶ Installation of a Linux firewall using iptables and monitoring all the network and stations using Zabbix (Zabbix agent on remote computers).
- ▶ Administration of web server of the association and related user mail accounts.

GTECH → Swiss Romande Lottery Site | Operation Analyst Level II

12.2005 - 06.2009 • CDI • Brussels (BE) / Lausanne (CH)

- ▶ Operation Analyst Level 1 (2005 - 2006) then Operation Analyst Level 2 (2006 - 2009).
- ▶ Detached from GTECH Belgium on the Romande Lottery customer site, working alone.
- ▶ Implementation of all new software on host systems (AIX, Windows & Linux) and on all lottery terminals on the field (Linux).
- ▶ Management of solutions implemented (issue resolution, system monitoring, first-level escalation 24/24, responsible for keeping systems 100% up & running).
- ▶ Interface for GTECH on customer site (issue reporting, debugging, testing).
- ▶ Development of bash scripts and C executables on host systems for operator low-level menus.
- ▶ Responsible for hardware maintenance and interface between GTECH, Romande Swiss Lottery and IBM Switzerland.
- ▶ Responsible for all the documentation released and provided to the customer.

IBM Belgium | UNIX Operator

09.2002 - 11.2004 • CDD • Brussels, Belgium

- ▶ Key role in keeping permanently up and running the systems of customers such as Deutsche Bank, KBC, Lhoist, Solvay, ... as well as some IBM internal ones.
- ▶ Closely monitoring of UNIX & NT systems with the use of Tivoli and Linux Net Saint Nagios.
- ▶ Analysis of problems and resolution depending on the case directly on systems through SSH, VNC and IBM Director.
- ▶ Execution and monitoring of clients backups (Tivoli Storage Manager, Shark, Backup-Exec).
- ▶ Responsible for keeping the customer documentation and tools up to date.

Hellea Sprl | System Administrator

08.2002 • CDD • Brussels, Belgium

- ▶ Maintenance and monitoring alone of the Hellea Linux Network LAN during 3 weeks.
- ▶ Installation and configuration of a remote network backup solution through encrypted tunnel (rdiff over SSH); backup generated and replicated automatically through the encrypted tunnel.
- ▶ Installation and configuration of a Jabber Instant Message Server and all associated services.

Arkanos ASBL (Owner) | System Administrator

01.2002 - 11.2005 • Brussels, Belgium

- ▶ Installation and configuration of computers for Arkanos clients (Linux workstations & servers).
- ▶ Specific implementation and development for clients.

Arafox SCRL | System Administrator

06.2001 - 12.2001 • CDI • Brussels, Belgium

- ▶ System administration under Linux on-site, remotely or in-house.
- ▶ Network administration of the Arafox and the IDE center LAN.
- ▶ Implementation from scratch of services: firewall, mail server, web server, file server, print sharing; resolution of technical problems.
- ▶ Installation & configuration for the IDE Center of a computer training room with a network of 12 workstations. Computer images (Windows 2000, Linux Debian), network LAN and file server managed on a central Linux Debian server.
- ▶ Implementation for clients of specific open-source solutions (DB server, file server, mail server, web server, etc.).

Sales+ Dendrite Europe | *Technical Support & Junior IT*

10.1999 - 06.2001 • *CDI* • *Frequent travel for clients in Europe (Germany, Holland, Portugal, ...)*

- ▶ Installation & configuration on NT server implemented with a Sybase SQL DB and in replication with a central server DB via FTP & mail client.
- ▶ Configuration of clients computers (workstations & laptops) implemented with the Sales+ Software and fine-tuning.
- ▶ Management of replicate internal DB (replicate process, backup, extraction of new client DB, update, ...).
- ▶ Resolution of hardware and software problems for clients or in-house (on-site, remotely or by phone).

Sanofi-Synthélabo | *Technical Support*

02.1999 - 10.1999 • *CDD* • *Brussels, Belgium*

- ▶ Installation and configuration of computers and laptops (Windows NT & 9x).
- ▶ Network administration (access rights to RAS, file server, print sharing, etc.).
- ▶ Working remotely via PC-Anywhere on client computers.
- ▶ Resolution of hardware and software problems; phone support.

MCH | *Technical Support*

05.1998 - 12.1998 • *CDD* • *Brussels, Belgium*

- ▶ Installation and configuration of computers for clients.
- ▶ Hardware installation (CD-ROM, RAM, network cards, etc.).
- ▶ In charge of returning non-functioning hardware.

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Operating Systems	Linux — Debian (preferred), Red Hat / RHEL, SLES, LFS Unix — Solaris, AIX, HP-UX Windows Server (NT-2022) & Workstation
Virtualization & Containers	VMware (ESX, vSphere, vCloud, VMotion), Proxmox VE, Docker, Kubernetes (K8s), LXC, Portainer, VirtualBox, Vagrant
IaC & Configuration Management	Ansible, Puppet, Red Hat Satellite, Chef, OpenSCAP, Autoyast, ArgoCD, GitOps
CI/CD & DevOps	Git, GitHub, GitLab, Jenkins, Rundeck, Nexus, Atlassian (Jira, Confluence, Bitbucket)
Monitoring & Observability	Prometheus, Grafana, Zabbix, CheckMK, Nagios, Elasticsearch, Uptime Kuma, Wazuh (XDR/SIEM)
Web & Middleware	Apache, Nginx, HAProxy, Varnish, Tomcat, Hybris, Squid, WordPress, Magento, Typo3
Networking & Security	TCP/IP, BGP, DNS, DHCP VPN: WireGuard, OpenVPN, IPsec Firewall: iptables, nftables, UFW Auth: LDAP, PAM, Active Directory Fail2ban, SSL/TLS, GPG
Cloud & CDN	Akamai CDN, Cloudflare, Let's Encrypt / Certbot
Databases	MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, Oracle, Redis, Sybase, IBM DB2
Backup & Storage	TSM (Tivoli), Veritas, BackupExec, Synology NAS
Scripting & Development	Bash, Python, C/C++, SQL, PHP, YAML, HTML
AI & Automation	Ollama (local LLM), Claude / Claude Code (Anthropic), OpenClaw (AI gateway), n8n (workflow automation), Prompt Engineering

LANGUAGES, CERTIFICATIONS & EDUCATION

Languages

French *native speaker*

English *fluent (read · speak · write)*

Dutch *basic knowledge*

Certifications

LPIC-1 *Linux Professional Institute*

ITIL v3 Foundation *EXIN*

Novell Certified Linux Admin

GTECH ESTE (2006) *System & DB Admin · Operations · IPS Lite*

Microsoft NT4 *Core Tech · Administration (Flexcom)*

Education

Kinesithérapie *ISEK Bruxelles (2/3 years)*

Math-Sciences *ITCF Jemelle (2nd cycle)*

Math-Sciences *Institut St-Joseph Rochefort (1st cycle)*