

MAHLAMBANE MANGENA

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TECHNICAL SPECIALIST | INFRASTRUCTURE ARCHITECT & SRE

Two decades of expertise in scaling hybrid-cloud infrastructures across AWS and on-premises data centres. Specialized in **PKI security, proactive monitoring, and high-availability architecture**. Deeply experienced in navigating **ISO 27001 and PCI-DSS** compliance. Combines a DevOps-first mindset with a rigorous focus on infrastructure stability and automated delivery to ensure enterprise-grade reliability.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- **Cloud & Infrastructure:** AWS (EC2, Beanstalk, S3, Route53, IAM), Hybrid-Cloud Architecture, VMware ESXi, KVM.
- **DevOps & Automation (IaC):** Terraform, Ansible, Jenkins, Bamboo, CI/CD Pipelines (GitLab, GitHub, BitBucket).
- **Containers & Orchestration:** Kubernetes (K8s), Docker, Podman.
- **Security & Compliance:** PKI Infrastructure, SSL/TLS Lifecycle, ISO 27001, PCI-DSS, WAF, FreeRADIUS.
- **Observability & Messaging:** Prometheus, Grafana, AppDynamics, Zabbix, Graylog, Apache Kafka (KRaft, TLS, SASL/Kerberos).
- **Web & Systems:** Nginx, HAProxy, Apache, RHEL, Ubuntu, FreeBSD, Python, Bash.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Specialist | FNB (First National Bank) | Mar 2022 – Present

- **High-Availability & Redundancy:** Architecting resilient systems to eliminate single points of failure, ensuring **99.9% availability for core banking services** through advanced **load balancing and failover** strategies.
- **Observability & Monitoring:** Implementing comprehensive enterprise frameworks - including **AppDynamics, Grafana, and Graylog** - to maintain deep visibility and proactive detection of system health and performance.
- **SRE & Automation:** Streamlining operations via **Python and Bash automation** for log harvesting and metric integration, significantly reducing **MTTR** and manual intervention in production environments.

- DevOps Transformation: Engineering **CI/CD pipelines** to automate deployments, achieving a 70% reduction in manual tasks and eliminating deployment-related human error.
- Security & Compliance: Directing **R&D and hardening infrastructure** (e.g., Apache Kafka/KRaft) using **TLS and SASL (Kerberos/SCRAM)** to ensure strict alignment with **PCI-DSS standards**.

Web Engineer | OneConnect (Contracted to Capitec Bank) | Oct 2019 – Feb 2022

- **High-Availability & Load Balancing:** Orchestrated **Nginx HA clusters** and advanced clustering to maintain **99.9% uptime** for high-concurrency internet banking and corporate platforms.
- **Secure Edge Infrastructure:** Hardened perimeter environments using **Squid Proxy and JScape MFT**, implementing proactive threat mitigation for sensitive financial data transfers.
- **Infrastructure Observability:** Directed **Zabbix and Graylog** administration, designing real-time alerting schemas and monitoring server health to maintain a robust security posture.
- **SRE & Automation:** Optimized operations through **Docker** environment management and **custom automation scripting**, streamlining frequent configuration tasks and system maintenance.
- **Web & System Administration:** Managed full-lifecycle **Linux and Drupal** administration, ensuring platform stability and providing technical advisory for complex **integration projects**.

Application Engineer | Striata (Pty) Ltd | Feb 2018 – Sep 2019

- **Multi-Platform Administration:** Oversee full-lifecycle management of **Linux, FreeBSD, and Windows** servers across **VMware, Proxmox, and Xen hypervisors**.
- **SRE & Automation:** Streamline deployments via **Docker and GitLab** orchestration, leveraging custom scripts to automate frequent tasks and configuration management.
- **Infrastructure Monitoring & Reliability:** Utilize **Zabbix** for continuous performance and capacity reporting, ensuring maximum uptime and rapid recovery through robust backup strategies.
- **Security & Identity Management:** Administer mission-critical **PKI infrastructure and FreeRADIUS** to maintain network integrity and secure core platform services.

- **Collaborative Engineering:** Partner with development teams to establish **best practices**, implement complex releases, and translate business requirements into high-performance technical solutions.

Systems Administration Consultant | 2016 – 2018

- **Fastnet:** Spearheaded PCI-DSS policy implementation and strategic VMware capacity planning. Managed full-lifecycle administration for Linux and Windows Server environments, ensuring robust infrastructure support and enterprise-grade virtualisation management.
- **Syrex:** Managed Linux server administration and KVM virtualization, ensuring high-performance hosting environments. Directed Network Intrusion and Detection Systems (NIDS) to secure perimeter integrity while providing dedicated technical support for high-priority clients.
- **Tsalano:** Managed hybrid infrastructure environments, overseeing Windows and Linux server administration with a focus on AWS (EC2, Elastic Beanstalk) orchestration. Spearheaded server hardening, optimization, and perimeter security initiatives while maintaining high availability through robust backup and replication strategies. Acted as a technical advisor for new projects, directing the full lifecycle of server maintenance, OS patching, and high-concurrency web server administration (IIS & Apache)

Network & Server Administrator | Zonke-Unicode (Pty) Ltd | Apr 2005 – May 2016

- **Long-Term Oversight:** Directed 11 years of full-lifecycle administration for **VMware, Linux, and Windows** environments.
- **Security Orchestration:** Managed **ModSecurity (WAF)** and **FreeRADIUS** while overseeing multi-site network integrations and disaster recovery.

EARLY CAREER HISTORY

- **IT Administrator** | Gauteng Dept. of Education | 2004 – 2005
- **Desktop Support Technician** | HC Direct | 2002 – 2004

CERTIFICATIONS

- **AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner** | 2021
- **ISO/IEC 27001 Foundation** | 2020
- **CompTIA Network+ & A+** | 2001