

James Harmison

DevOps/Platform Engineering, AI Infrastructure, and Information Security expert

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Daily Linux user since the late 1990s with deep low-level expertise across kernel, networking, containers, distributed systems, and cloud-native AI infrastructure.
- Self-taught technical leader with proven ability to exceed requirements in roles spanning deep engineering, architecture, pre-sales, and strategic initiatives.
- Consistently recognized as a top performer (multiple awards, rapid promotions) who bridges technical excellence and effective technical team leadership.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Red Hat

AI Business Unit

Senior Principal Technical Marketing Manager

JANUARY 2025 - PRESENT

- Supports strategic initiatives for AI platform products including collaboration with key partners, crafting of technical assets to support messaging and sales motions, and building tailored demonstrations for industry analysts. Works with engineering teams and upstream open-source communities to prototype, validate, and improve AI infrastructure capabilities.
- Builds production-grade AI platform demonstrations and hands-on workshops using Kubernetes, Kubeflow, and cloud-native infrastructure, supporting enablement and contributing to sales wins in a growing segment.
- Engages with engineering architects across product teams to establish requirements from customers, participating in implementation upstream.
- Spends weekends and time after work contributing to upstream projects such as the Linux kernel, the containers suite, Rook/Ceph, Metal3, Kubeflow, bootc, etc.

North America Go-To-Market Tech Team

Principal Specialist Solutions Architect, Data Science

AUGUST 2022 - DECEMBER 2024

- Selected to be a strategic asset for Kubernetes implementations across the globe, outside of regularly assigned territory and technology areas. Repeatedly sought after to establish trust at strategic clients to win critical business.
- Served as a technical subject matter expert for customers across North America on emerging Red Hat technologies, primarily supporting data science and edge computing use cases.
- Provided technical requirements from customers, implementation analysis, and participated in developing features across several teams and products to support positive customer outcomes in emerging technologies.
- Selected as Tech Sales Hero for Q1 2023 for role in multiple strategic accounts and technical ownership of customer problems, including code contributions.

North American Public Sector

Associate Principal Field Engineer, RedHat4Gov

FEBRUARY 2021 - JULY 2022

- Identified gaps in our customer coverage for an entire product segment and justified investment that led to the formation of this tiger team.
- Engineered features to support specialized customer requirements such as FIPS cryptography and air-gapped environments in modern hybrid cloud platforms.
- Architected, implemented, and led technical discussions of new product features and open-source projects supporting these critical features.

OPEN SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS

- [Linux kernel](#)
- github.com/containers
- [Rook](#)
- [Metal³](#)
- [OpenDataHub](#)
- Multiple others, see profiles
- Fedora community member

SKILLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

Automation

- Ansible
- Bash (et al.)
- PowerShell
- Helm / Kustomize

AI Infrastructure

- Multi-vendor GPU usage (CUDA/ROCm)
- InfiniBand
- ROCE
- Spectrum-X/DOCA
- Kubeflow Trainer
- vLLM
- llm-d

Programming Languages

- Python
- Rust
- Golang
- Others (hobbyist)

CI/CD

- GitLab CI
- GitHub Actions
- Tekton
- Legacy (e.g. Jenkins)

Senior Specialist Solutions Architect, Emerging Technology

SEPTEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2021

- Worked directly with customer technical representatives, showcasing relevant implementation details and earning trust and confidence in Red Hat solutions.
- Selected as Specialist Solutions Architect of the Year for 2020 due to contributions outside of assigned responsibilities and sales growth within patch.

US Army

Network Engineering Research and Development (NERD)

Senior Engineer

JUNE 2018 - SEPTEMBER 2019

- Hand selected to lead a development team in modernizing our automated OpenStack and (later) OVirt-based operations platform.
- Proposed, designed, and implemented project integrating multiple open-source and commercial products into a unified platform.
- Worked with industry partners to develop and field new hardware platforms. Developed, performed, and reported on analysis and benchmarks.
- Developed documentation and training materials to support operational forces using new technologies introduced.

Cyber Protection Brigade (CPB) 156 Cyber Protection Team

Cyber Operations Sergeant — Systems Analyst/Linux

OCTOBER 2016 - JUNE 2018

- Conducted 11 Defensive Cyber Operations missions as the senior Linux Systems Analyst, including security assessments and incident response.
- Overhauled Hunt mission collection methodologies and automation across both Windows and Linux platforms to improve automated analytics capability. Developed a pipeline to enrich, triage, and analyze data acquired.
- Developed a reproducible virtualized training environment to improve team performance on live environment missions, with low consequences.

Bravo Company, 1st ARB, 82d Combat Aviation Brigade

Squad Leader

AUGUST 2013 - FEBRUARY 2016

- Served as mentor to a squad of Apache AH-64D crew chiefs.
- Selected to lead night shift as the sole supervisor for maintenance operations.
- Designed maintenance window projection calculator, improving flight readiness.

Delta Company, 2nd ARB, 159th Aviation Regiment

Squad Leader

APRIL 2010 - AUGUST 2013

- Supported extended maintenance actions on a fleet of Apache helicopters.
- Selected for the rank of Corporal, assuming responsibility above pay grade.
- Quickly recognized as a skilled troubleshooter on complex systems.

Nite Owl Technology Services

Contractor

2007 - 2009

- Served as an independent contractor providing IT services for small to medium businesses and residential customers around Southwest Florida.

Containers

- OCI-compatible runtimes (docker, podman)
- Kubernetes orchestration
- Other cloud-native CNCF projects (e.g. ArgoCD, Rook)

Virtualization

- KVM/Libvirt
- Kubevirt
- Other orchestration (e.g. Proxmox, OpenStack)

Cloud Technologies

- Traditional cloud providers (e.g. AWS, Azure)
- NeoClouds (e.g. CoreWeave, Lambda)

OS Administration

- RHEL / CentOS / Fedora
- Debian / Ubuntu / etc.
- Windows Server

Information Security

- Memory Analysis
- Malware analysis
- Collection and triage
- Enterprise threat hunting
- Industrial Control Systems
- Network Security Monitoring

NOTABLE

TRAINING AND RECOGNITION

- Joint Cyber Analysis Course (2016)
- Cyber Threat Emulation Methodologies (2017)
- US Army Advanced Leader's Course - Distinguished Honor Graduate (2018)
- Specialist Solutions Architect of the Year (2020)
- Tech Sales hero (Q1, 2023)
- Technology Thought Leadership Accelerator Program (2023-2024), top ~30 employees selected
- Multiple Red Hat performance rewards