

# John Edwards - Curriculum Vitae

**Full Name:**

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**Date of Birth:**

3rd May 1972

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## Personal Statement

I am returning to the workplace after a fulfilling career break travelling through Australia and New Zealand.

My primary motivation is to create reliable services that can be easily used by a range of customers.

Most of my skills have been gained while working as a senior Systems Administrator, Analyst and Consultant, though I have also some skills in programming.

I enjoy new challenges, searching for the best solution for an organisation rather than accepting the easiest path or relying on formal training from a vendor. I believe that the security and reliability of IT systems can be improved by having consistent methods of installation and administration that are automated.

## Skills

### Operating Systems

- Excellent knowledge of Linux, especially Debian, Ubuntu and RedHat/CentOS Enterprise Linux.
- Good knowledge of Windows desktop versions from 3.1 to XP.
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Windows Small Business Server versions 2000 and 2003, primarily for file and printer sharing and Microsoft Exchange groupware.

### Automated System Administration

- Use of [Cfengine](#) to automate common system administration tasks, including system configuration, software installation, user management. Cfengine helps maintain a common configuration set for all machines while allowing for controlled variation.
- Traditional system administration scripting and reporting using Perl and bash.

### Host Based Security

- Designing a comprehensive host security suite for Linux systems using AIDE for file based intrusion detection, Logcheck for log file analysis, Snoopy for logging user commands and the Shorewall host-based firewall.

### Email services

- Designing a complete email solution for business using the [Postfix](#) SMTP server with TLS encryption, [Cyrus](#) IMAP server, [Amavis/ClamAV](#) for anti-virus protection, and [SpamAssassin](#) and Postfix ACLs for anti-spam protection.

### Web services

- Configuration of the Apache web server with PHP, mod\_perl, CGI, and virtual hosts.
- Squirrelmail web based email client and plugins, including Out Of Office notices, LDAP and personal address books, and calendars.
- Use of the Squid web proxy server to reduce bandwidth consumption, monitor and regulate usage web usage, and remove offensive material.

## LDAP

- Use of LDAP as a user account database and single sign-on authentication for Cyrus SMTP email, Postfix SMTP-AUTH email, and Samba file server.
- Integration of Postfix with LDAP for email addresses and delivery into shared folders.

## Network infrastructure

- Understanding of Ethernet, TCP/IP and common networking protocols.
- Network monitoring and diagnosis using Nagios, Ethereal, tcpdump.
- Network access control using Linux based firewalls.
- Diskless booting and system installation using PXE and TFTP.

## Computer Hardware

- Good knowledge of the IBM PC Compatible architecture, including troubleshooting, maintenance, upgrading, component selection and building.
- Maintenance and upgrading of Sun Ultra and SparcStation workstations.
- Virtualisation using Xen and VMWare.

## Contribution to Open source projects

- Code cleanup and bug fixing for the [IP Cop firewall](#).
- Packaging third party software for the [IP Cop firewall](#) firewall.
- Rewrite of the ytned\_smtpd email proxy that automatically converts Microsoft TNEF attachments into a readable form. This included improved logging and init script.
- Bug fixes for the [Ubuntu unattended-upgrades](#) package. This package completely automates the installation of security and bug fixes for an Ubuntu system.

## Professional Organisations

- Member of [UK Unix Users Group](#).
- Member of [Greater London Linux Users Group](#).

Clean Current Driving License.

# Employment History

## January 2005 - October 2006

Senior Systems Developer, [Forget About IT Ltd](#)

- Automating the installation and administration of Linux small business servers at remote sites using Cfengine.
- Planning and testing automated rollout of software changes, including automatic installation of dependencies.
- Training others in the use of Cfengine.
- Writing documentation on system installation and maintenance.

Left to take a career break travelling Australia and New Zealand.

## August 2001 - January 2005

Director/Consultant, [Supporting Role Ltd](#)

- Chief system administrator for all Linux computers. Servers include file, web and email servers running Samba, Apache, MySQL, Qmail and Cyrus.
- Designing and maintaining security on Linux and Windows computers, and firewalls.
- Understanding clients' requirements and producing a complete network that meets their needs using Windows and Linux servers.
- Troubleshooting any problems with a client's computer system.
- Training both system administrators and computer users.

## September 2000 - August 2001

Systems Officer, [Brunel University, Department of Information Systems and Computing](#)

- System administration of Solaris and Linux servers, with Windows workstations.
- Design and implementation of an integrated network with Linux and Windows 2000 server and Windows 2000, NT4 and 98 workstations.

- Automating routine tasks using Perl and shell scripts.

### **June 1998 - September 2000**

Assistant Computer Officer, [Brunel University Computing Services](#)

- Securing Windows NT4 workstations for use in offices and in public areas.
- Ensuring a seamless integration of Windows NT4 workstations with Unix servers using Samba and other tools.
- Designing an automated installation using the Ghost disk imaging software, so that a PC can be installed and running in under half an hour.
- Installing Windows and Unix applications on central file servers so that they can be used from any workstation.
- Administration of user accounts and data on Solaris servers.
- Documentation and training of the various procedures on NT workstations.

### **January 1997 - December 1997**

IT and Physics Technician, [Cranford Community School](#)

- Installation and maintenance of hardware and software on a network of 400 PCs, Macintosh and Acorn computers.
- Offering support and assistance to 1500 users of all ages.
- Teaching users how to operate a computer and learn new applications.
- Managing user accounts on Microsoft Windows NT server.

Left to take a six month course in PC Hardware and Operating Systems at Richmond College.

## **Professional Education**

### **13th February 2002**

Perl for System Administrators, Simon Cozens & UKUUG

Use of the Perl programming language in Unix and Windows to automate common tasks, build system management tools, check system security and manage network services (eg Apache and LDAP).

### **25th November 1998**

System Architecture Support IV, Viglen Technical Training  
Advanced PC hardware course.

### **27-28th July 1998**

Introduction to Windows NT4 system administration, Quanta Training

## **Academic Education**

### **Feb 1998 - July 1998**

Richmond upon Thames College

NVQ Level 3 (full) Computer Management

### **July 1997 - Jan 1998**

Manchester Metropolitan University and IDEA

NVQ Level 3 (four modules) Advanced Internet Training

### **Oct 1990 - June 1993**

Leicester University, B.Sc. Physics with Astrophysics