Julien Simard

Senior IT Consultant

Bilingual: French (native) · English (fluent)

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Summary

Senior IT consultant with 13+ years in hybrid infrastructure and cloud. Supported global Linux and Windows operations serving thousands of users at BRP, managed people at Akinox and a 7-person team at DigitalDays, and owned IT across 3 sites at Ambra. Hands-on expertise in Azure / Entra ID, virtualization, automation, security and disaster recovery.

Work History

Senior Infrastructure Consultant (contract)

Nov 2025 - Present

Confidential MSP (24/7 IT Consulting)

- Onboarded a new MSP client through a full infrastructure audit and built the architecture documentation, runbooks and procedures for team handover.
- Own Linux and Windows Server infrastructure across production and datacenter sites: FortiGate HA, Hyper-V, VMware, Active Directory / Entra ID, DFS, backups, pfSense, MikroTik and Datto RMM / Zabbix.
- Led AWS migrations and platform upgrades for internal services, data integration and analytics, maintaining critical pipelines through FortiGate BGP/IPsec connectivity.
- Built PowerShell compliance checks and user provisioning; implemented Entra ID Conditional Access, revised GPOs and integrated Apple Business Manager, Intune / Autopilot and Samsung Knox.
- Resolved recurring backup, replication and network incidents; rebuilt the FortiGate HA configuration and security policies.

Senior Systems Administrator (contract)

Apr 2024 - Nov 2025

BRP (Bombardier Recreational Products) (24/7 IT Consulting)

Concurrent engagements with Akinox Solutions: Apr–Oct 2024.

- Administered Linux and Windows servers across multiple countries, supporting thousands of users and Level 3 escalations for global operations.
- Implemented and migrated Red Hat Satellite, Exchange and Postfix; supported Intune, Microsoft 365 and Azure Zero Trust configuration and hardening.
- Developed Linux governance policies, network procedures and standards for senior management.
- Built automation and hardening tools, documented POCs and incidents, and mentored colleagues on Linux and Azure.

Cloud Systems Administrator

Jan 2023 - Oct 2024

Akinox Solutions

Concurrent engagements with BRP: Apr–Oct 2024.

- Built and operated Azure infrastructure; migrated servers and Microsoft 365 services and managed Front Door, application firewalls, virtual networks, gateways, SSO, storage, SQL and costs.
- Managed the internal support team and helped supervise the external support team in a regulated SaaS environment.
- Owned ISO 27001 / 27005 and SOC 2 non-conformity management, internal security audits and remediation.
- Co-led bug bounty with DevSecOps, validated reported vulnerabilities and coordinated fixes and security features with developers.
- Implemented Zero Trust, RBAC, Azure PIM and Conditional Access; automated user onboarding and offboarding.

Work History

Systems Administrator
May 2021 - Jan 2023

DigitalDays

- Managed 7 team members (5 technicians, 2 junior sysadmins), including onboarding, scheduling and 24/7 VIP support coverage.
- Built and monitored physical and virtual client infrastructure; handled Level 3 analysis and documented handovers for first-line support.
- Led Azure / Microsoft 365 and AWS migrations across Linux, Windows, VMware, cloud storage (GCP, Box, SharePoint, OneDrive, Azure) and email (Exchange, private SMTP, Gmail).
- Planned hardware and software upgrades, designed network security and authored incident and DoD reports.

Systems Administrator
Feb 2020 - May 2021

Ambra Solution Inc.

- Sole IT resource across 3 sites, owning infrastructure architecture, deployment, monitoring, backups, security and daily support.
- Modernized a partially built environment with new physical and virtual servers, expanded virtualization and proactive monitoring.
- Managed and tested backups, validated disaster recovery plans and upgraded storage for data integrity and redundancy.

Senior Technician
Feb 2016 - Feb 2020

IT Cloud Solutions

- Handled Level 2 Windows and Linux escalations, trained technicians and documented resolutions using ITIL best practices.
- Supported StorageCraft and Bitdefender; managed data, SQL / MySQL / MSSQL, Exchange and system-state backups with incremental full images and SFTP cloud replication.
- Handled data recovery and disaster recovery, including virtualization of the last backup; contributed to R&D certification and internal / external testing.

Earlier Experience

Emergency Medical Dispatcher — CCSMCQ, Trois-Rivieres · 2012 - 2016

Infantry Soldier — Canadian Forces · 2009 - 2012

Tech Support — Bell Canada · 2006 - 2009

Skills

Systems & Virtualization: Linux · Windows Server · VMware vSphere/ESXi · Proxmox/KVM · Hyper-V · Infrastructure Architecture & Modernization · Exchange / Exchange Online / Postfix

Cloud & Identity: Azure · Microsoft 365 · AWS · GCP · Active Directory · Entra ID · Conditional Access · PIM · RBAC · Group Policy (GPO) · Identity Lifecycle Management · Cloud Cost Management

Networking & Security: FortiGate HA · IPsec/BGP · pfSense · MikroTik · Zero Trust · Azure Networking & Application Security · Security Audits & Vulnerability Remediation

Automation & Operations: PowerShell · Ansible · Datto RMM · Zabbix · Endpoint & Mobile Device Management (Intune/Autopilot, Apple Business Manager, Samsung Knox) · Incident Management & Level 3 Escalation

Resilience & Migrations: Backup Validation & Disaster Recovery Planning · High Availability · Storage · Infrastructure Migrations · Microsoft 365 & Email Migrations

Leadership & Governance: People Management · Project Delivery · Support Operations · Documentation & Training · ISO 27001/27005 & SOC 2 Remediation · Infrastructure Assessments & Technical Audits · Technical Mentoring & Knowledge Transfer · MSP Client Onboarding & Operational Handover

Languages

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