Ryan Starr

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Website
theadventuringdev.com

GitHub
github.com/RyanStarr

Certifications
AZ-900
MS-900
(Currently studying for AZ-104)

Technical Skills
Virtualisation (ESXI/Proxmox)
CCNA Networking Knowledge
Basic DevOps knowledge
Docker Containerisation
Windows/Linux/Mac
Active Directory

Professional Summary

As a dedicated IT professional with experience in first and second-line support across MSP, academic, and large organisation environments. I have built a solid foundation in containerisation through hands-on work in my homelab, and I am keen to expand my server management and deployment in a business environment.

Work History

IT Technician (contract) – Alliance Homes (November 2024 – April 2025)

Maintained and administered the MDM system by replacing outdated devices, deploying new ones, updating system configurations, and decommissioning assets in SolarWinds to ensure accurate infrastructure tracking.

Technical Analyst – WestSpring IT (May 2023 – September 2024)

Managed network infrastructure in an MSP environment by configuring VPNs, modifying firewall rules, and supporting diverse client systems, expanding my expertise in systems troubleshooting and server administration.

IT Technician (contract) – Bristol University (September 2022 – March 2023)

Provided comprehensive system administration at the main campus by handling hardware installations and OS/software updates, I then volunteered to support the satellite campus after the previous technician's upcoming retirement.

UK Travel Break (March 2022 – June 2022)

IT Service Desk Analyst – Royal United Hospitals Bath (February 2021 – March 2022)

Administered IT systems across multiple NHS sites by managing Microsoft and NHS systems and providing minor hardware fixes.

Education

University of Plymouth, 2017 – 2020
BSc Hons Computer Systems & Networks
Grade: 2:1

Bridgwater and Taunton College, 2015 – 2017
BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Computing
Grade: Distinction* Distinction* Distinction*

Kings of Wessex Academy, 2014 – 2015
AS Levels: Computing (D), Geography (E)

Kings of Wessex Academy, 2011 – 2014
GCSE: English (C), Maths (C), Science (B), BTEC Business (Pass), Digital Applications (Pass), Computing (D)

Technical Knowledge

Business environments

I have gained a lot of knowledge of core IT systems in a business environment. This includes SCCM and Intune network deployments/policy modification, Active Directory and Remote Desktop Services.

I also have experience in working with multiple Networking technologies including Fortinet, WatchGuard and Unifi.

Homelab
On-Premises Infrastructure & System Administration

I am currently running a Proxmox cluster using three Dell 3040 micro machines running Ubuntu VMs and Docker containers. On these machines, I have also configured an OPNsense router for my homelab network and integrated Tailscale for secure remote access.

I also have a TrueNAS server configured to run some Docker applications and store family files. This is backed up to a separate TrueNAS machine and to the cloud.

I'm currently working on migrating part of my setup to Kubernetes K3s for a more robust, clustered container environment. My aim is to use GitHub to create a CI/CD pipeline for automatic deployments to my cluster, and to implement SSO for my services with Authelia.

Automation, Monitoring & Infrastructure Reliability

To run my TrueNAS backup server, I have connected it to a solar and battery bank setup. I monitor the system voltage to determine when the TrueNAS system should be powered on to perform backups. This is managed using an ESP32 to log data from the solar system to InfluxDB, and a separate ESP32 to control the system via the power switch.

Monitoring and Documentation

I have also configured Grafana and Uptime Kuma to monitor this system alongside my other services, with alerts via Discord if any systems or services go down.

As my homelab is becoming too large to memorise its layout, I have documented the servers and services using Otter Wiki and a Dashy dashboard to provide easy access to all my services.

Beyond this, I also have two websites that allow me to publicly document my homelab and learning journey.

Volunteering Experience

Repair Café Volunteer – Cheddar Repair Café

March 2025 – Present

Volunteering with Electrical hardware and computing hardware repairs.

IT Support Volunteer - Community Scrapstore North Somerset

June 2019 – February 2020