STEPHEN SARGENT MSCS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Systems Administrator and AI Infrastructure Architect with 30+ years managing enterprise infrastructure, network security, virtualization, and cloud environments. Skilled in server management, Active Directory/Entra ID, Office 365, VMware, Hyper-V, Cisco networking, backup/disaster recovery, and DevOps automation. Founder of AI services company delivering RAG systems, chatbots, and custom AI infrastructure. Proven leader collaborating across IT teams to align strategic priorities, drive change management, and deliver reliable, HIPAA-compliant systems. Strong analytical, project management, problem-solving, and incident management skills.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Systems & Infrastructure Management:** Windows Server 2012-2025, Linux (Kali, Debian, Ubuntu, Redhat), Active Directory, Azure, AD/Entra ID, Group Policy, DHCP/DNS, MECM/SCCM, WSUS, Ivanti, ManageEngine, Ansible, Puppet, Chef, PowerShell DSC, PowerShell, Python, Bash, scripting, Systems Administration, Windows Server Administration, Linux Server Administration
- **Virtualization & Containerization:** VMware ESXi/vCenter/vSphere, Hyper-V, Proxmox, Nutanix AHV, Microsoft SCVMM, Docker, containerd, Podman, Kubernetes, K3s, RKE2, OpenShift, Rancher, Portainer, Terraform, Packer, HashiCorp Vault, Infrastructure as Code
- **Backup & Disaster Recovery:** Acronis True Image, Acronis Cyber Protect Cloud, Datto BCDR, Veeam Backup & Replication, VeeamONE, Rubrik, Cohesity, Commvault, Nakivo, Altaro, Unitrends, VMware vRealize, business continuity, disaster recovery planning
- **Network Infrastructure & Security:** Cisco IOS/XE (ISR, Catalyst, Nexus), Palo Alto Networks, Fortigate, Juniper, Check Point, ASA, F5 BIG-IP, Citrix ADC, Kemp LoadMaster, Arista, Aruba, Ubiquiti UniFi, Cloudflare Magic Transit, Imperva, WireGuard, IPsec VPN, LAN/WLAN Network Infrastructure
- **Security Operations & Compliance:** CrowdStrike Falcon, SentinelOne, Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, Splunk, Elastic Stack/ELK, Graylog, Wazuh, OSSEC, Tenable.sc, Rapid7 InsightVM, Nessus, Burp Suite, CEH Certified Ethical Hacker, HIPAA Compliance, audit, vulnerability scanning, endpoint hardening, incident response
- **Identity & Access Management:** Azure AD Connect, Active Directory Certificate Services (AD CS), Cisco ISE, Aruba ClearPass, ForeScout, JumpCloud, Multi-Factor Authentication, RBAC, Privileged Access Management, Okta Single Sign-On, JAMF
- **Monitoring & Management:** Grafana, Prometheus, Nagios, Zabbix, PRTG, SolarWinds NPM, Auvik, LibreNMS, RANCID, NetBox, Datadog, ServiceNow, ITIL, NinjaOne, ConnectWise, IT Glue, alerting, capacity planning, performance tuning
- **Cloud Platforms:** Microsoft Azure, AWS, Microsoft 365, Intune, Autopilot, Azure Automation, Logic Apps, Function Apps, cloud migration
- **Storage & Software-Defined Infrastructure:** VMware vSAN, Ceph, GlusterFS, TrueNAS, FreeNAS, Open vSwitch, VMware NSX, StarWind VSAN, StorMagic SvSAN, Dell EMC, HPE Nimble, NetApp
- **Hardware & Out-of-Band Management:** Dell PowerEdge, HP ProLiant, HPE iLO, Dell iDRAC, Supermicro IPMI, Cisco CIMC, Cisco UCS, Lenovo ThinkSystem, PuTTY, SecureCRT, MobaXterm
- **AI & Modern Infrastructure:** Docker, LLM deployment, Ollama, vector databases (Qdrant), RAG systems, LoRA fine-tuning, ComfyUI, LTX Video, Stable Diffusion, Unsloth, CUDA, GPU optimization, Multi-GPU isolation, vLLM, llama.cpp, air-gapped AI deployment, microservices, REST API, JSON, Git, Jira, n8n automation

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder & Chief Technology Officer | Avondale.AI | Phoenix, AZ | Jan 2026 - Present

Founded AI services company delivering custom AI infrastructure, RAG systems, chatbots, and safety workshops to families and small businesses. Architect and deploy production AI stacks including Ollama, Qdrant vector databases, Docker/Kubernetes orchestration, and local LLM fine-tuning pipelines using CI/CD and Infrastructure as Code. Built automated batch video generation workflows using ComfyUI, LTX Video, and FFmpeg for character-consistent multi-scene content production. Implement DevOps automation and GPU isolation strategies for multi-GPU systems enabling parallel AI workloads. Design air-gapped, local-first AI architectures with microservices and REST API endpoints eliminating external API dependencies for security-conscious clients. Create LoRA training datasets and fine-tune character models using Kohya SS and Unsloth for consistent visual generation. Manage deployments via Git with Jira tracking and JSON-based configuration management.

Founder & Chief Technology Officer | Dixie Networks, LLC | Gulf Shores, AL | Apr 2021 - Present

Provide comprehensive managed IT services for maritime, mobility, and enterprise clients including full infrastructure support, server management, and network operations. Deliver end-to-end device and server support across diverse environments from vessel-based maritime systems to mobile workforce deployments and fixed enterprise installations. Conduct penetration testing engagements and compliance audit identifying security vulnerabilities across customer networks, applications, and infrastructure. Perform compliance audits for regulatory requirements including HIPAA, PCI-DSS, and industry-specific maritime security standards. Architect and implement network segmentation, firewall policies, and security controls for multi-location enterprise customers. Manage 24x7

monitoring, alerting, incident management, and change management for critical maritime communications and enterprise infrastructure. Lead cloud migration initiatives and business continuity planning across distributed client environments.

Senior Systems Administrator | Further Assistance, Inc. | Medical & Government Facilities | 2004 - 2024
Delivered full-spectrum IT operations: networks, virtualization, security, and forensics for military hospitals. Led site migrations, enclave hardening, hardware refreshes, and multi-site Active Directory management. Implemented enterprise firewalls (Fortigate/Palo Alto), EDR (CrowdStrike/SentinelOne), and backup solutions (Acronis/Barracuda/Veeam/Datto). Supported 24x7 operations with on-call rotations, incident management, and field deployments in high-tempo environments. Conducted ethical hacking, vulnerability assessments, and compliance audit using Tenable.sc, Rapid7, and Burp Suite. Managed change management processes and capacity planning for 10,000+ user environments.

Systems Administrator & Network Engineer (Contractor) | Various DoD Contracts | 1990 - 2004
Provided hands-on administration, virtualization, penetration testing, and Cisco/Juniper network deployments. Managed mission-critical systems in austere and high-tempo settings with active DoD security clearance. Executed deployments, troubleshooting, performance tuning, and optimizations under tight SLAs.

CERTIFICATION

- **CEH (Certified Ethical Hacker):** Expired; Score 94% - Eligible for reinvestigation.
- **Industry Certifications:** VMware VCP, Microsoft MCSE/MCSA, Cisco CCNA, Network Security, Cloud Platforms.
- **Continuous Professional Development:** Masters - Southern University 88-93, PhD level: IT Experience, Cybersecurity, Cloud, AI