

# Sylvain Robitaille

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## STATUS

- Unix/Linux system administrator, recently relocated to Saint John, New Brunswick.

## OBJECTIVES

- To continue my career in information technology, with a new position that benefits from my analytical and troubleshooting skills.
- To work for an organization that takes pride in providing high quality service to its community, and that values the expertise of its staff.
- To participate in a cooperative environment where colleagues are working together towards a common goal.
- To be the best that I can be, in a mutually beneficial association with an employer that makes valuable contributions to society.

## WHY I SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

- An **intelligent** and **hardworking** person who very strongly believes in doing a job **completely** and **correctly**.
- **Strong desire to learn** and to gain new experience, and a cooperative and enthusiastic member of any team that sets **high standards** for the quality of its work.
- Excellent **analytical, troubleshooting, and problem-solving skills** with computer hardware, software, and networking protocols.
- Able to be a **resource** for colleagues who may be seeking guidance, or simply looking for a **sounding board** when decisions need to be made.
- **Fluently bilingual** in English and French, with **strong writing skills** in English.
- Ability to take **ownership of a product or service**, when the situation calls for it, and to be a leader in the management and maintenance of that product or service, and its advancement through phases of development and deployment.
- Strives to gain a **thorough understanding** of systems and services, ensuring **competent responses** to problem reports and to the changing needs of a user community.
- Ability to create clear and accurate documentation.
- Ability to merge the above attributes, and use knowledge gained while guiding colleagues, and participating in decision making.

SPECIFIC SKILLS

- Excellent knowledge of **Unix** and **Linux** operating systems, with an emphasis on **system and network security**.
- Experience managing **large-scale mail infrastructure**, and other network communication and infrastructure services.
- Experience managing **network file services** in a highly dynamic environment.
- Very strong knowledge of programming languages: **C, Perl, shell scripting**; plus some experience with **SQL, C++, Python, PHP**, and other scripting languages. Assembly language programming experience with a variety of processors.
- Experience **automating processes** using **REST APIs**, and interfacing with **relational databases** to create **seamless integration** between systems.
- Years of experience with network protocols and related server software (**SMTP, NNTP, HTTP, FTP, POP, IMAP, DNS, RPZ, DNS Firewalls, DHCP, RADIUS, SNMP, Ontap, iptables**).
- Working knowledge of **Kerberos** and **LDAP**.
- Strong knowledge of network management and monitoring software (**CheckMK, Nagios, Cacti, NetDisco, MRTG, Flow-Tools, Net-SNMP**).
- Experience with **tape-backup systems** in a networked high-availability environment.
- Proven track record of **over two and a half decades** of working with **commercial Unix** and **open-source Unix-like** operating systems, system software, and **networks** in an always-on environment.

EMPLOYMENT  
HISTORY

*Elections Officer*

**Elections New Brunswick and Elections  
Canada  
2024, October and 2025, April**

I served in two positions ("Constable" on an advance poll day, and "Tabulation Machine Officer" on election day) during the fall 2024 New Brunswick provincial election, then as a Deputy Returning Officer for the April 2025 Canadian federal general election. These were long days of working with the public and it was rather satisfying to immerse myself among my new neighbors.

*Computing Systems Analyst*

**Concordia University, Montréal, Canada  
1997 – 2023  
1997 – 2014 and 2016 – 2023**

I held a series of positions at Concordia University, first as a **Unix systems administrator** and then as a **wireless network analyst** in the central computing services department; as a **high performance computing systems administrator** in the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, where my primary focus was the maintenance and administration of a 130-node high-performance parallel computing cluster; ultimately returning to a general Unix systems administrator position.

In my latest senior systems analyst position, I was primarily responsible for the computing infrastructure servers, including **network file servers, account management, email, DNS, monitoring systems**, and other servers managed on behalf of the Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, and their ongoing maintenance. I

have also been the go-to individual to manage our **automated system provisioning** and **software maintenance** systems.

In my original position as a Unix systems administrator at Concordia University, my responsibilities grew to include managing the institution's main communications services in the form of **email and netnews**, as well as system administration of the university's main financial information server. I followed that with some years as the university's **wireless network administrator**, where I inherited a diverse and fragmented farm of equipment, and made it possible to track it and administer it centrally, resulting in much greater reliability of the service.

I was employed at Concordia University for nearly 27 years, except for a brief time away, during which I took the opportunity to pursue interests unrelated to my work. I have found that the hiatus made me a much better resource when colleagues sought guidance and assistance.

*Non-Destructive Testing Technician*

**DNL Technologies, Montréal, Canada**  
**(Monac International, Winnipeg, Canada)**  
**1993 – 1997**

This small engineering company specialized in the non-destructive testing of steel structures, and hired me to help design and assemble data-acquisition computers. I also became the company's specialist in the application of strain-gauge technology, and designed and created some of its printed circuit boards.

I gained my first experience in network management there, by designing, implementing, and managing a small peer-to-peer network with file and printer sharing. It seemed noteworthy at the time, give how small our company was, to have networked computers. Finally, I wrote data collection and monitoring software which was included in a package sold to the New York City Department of Transportation.

*Sound and Lighting Technician*

**various production companies**  
**Winnipeg, Canada**  
**1986 – 1993**

As an electronics specialist in the entertainment industry, I operated and serviced lighting and sound equipment as well as musical instruments, such as mixing desks, monitor speakers, microphones, guitars, amplifiers, drums, and synthesizers.

However, during those years I was also called upon to repair all manner of devices, often under urgent conditions, whether it be the plumbing in a band house, the starter in a converted bus, or a diesel-powered electrical generator on a flatbed truck en route to a parade. The notion that "the show must go on" may be cliché, but it is an excellent measure of work ethic, competence, and dedication to the job. Indeed, always when I was on the job, the show did go on.

PERSONAL  
INTERESTS AND  
HOBBIES

Machinery and technology fascinated me even as a small child. After a somewhat shaky start as a youngster taking apart household appliances to understand how they work, I started working on cars with friends as a teenager. Within a few years I learned enough to be able to perform most maintenance and repairs on my own cars and for friends and family. These days, such tasks that I do not perform myself are those that require specialized equipment or tools that I don't own. I also frequently enjoy woodworking as a hobby, and although I don't see myself as a woodworker or carpenter, I certainly do enjoy working with the materials and tools involved there as well.

Computers and electronics are both a career path and ongoing hobbies for me. Self taught in computer programming and system administration, in my spare time I maintain a small computer network at home. I also enjoy troubleshooting and repairing electronic audio and musical equipment, having bought such equipment in non-functional condition, and taking great pride in successfully making it work.

Arts and sports are an important part of my life: I'm an amateur musician (I play guitar) and recording engineer, and prior to moving away from Montreal, I refereed hockey in two adult-recreational leagues. Frequently seeking new opportunities to share in the joy of learning and to improve existing skills, I regularly attend guitar workshops and clinics.