

PERSONAL DETAILS

- First Name:** Michael (Mike)
- Surname:** Kenny
- Location:** South Africa
- Nationality:** South African (Naturalized)
- Marital Status:** Married
- Objective:** To work in an environment where I can apply my extensive knowledge and experience of IT and related fields. This could be in a product focused organization such as a software developer or distributor, a user of technology with the vision, sense and courage to leverage Open Source Technologies to address IT requirements or an organization with a complex heterogeneous environment with the associated integration requirements this brings. In the latter case the ideal would be to work in an architectural role where I can use my extensive knowledge of different aspects of IT and experience of different client industries to build total, integrated solutions.
- Profile:** Creative and systematic thinker with an entrepreneurial drive and instinct for innovation. 20+ years experience in the IT industry ranging from software design and development to consulting on infrastructure architecture for large corporations.
- On of my my principal strengths is my ability to quickly adapt to new technologies and products and apply these to my clients' requirements. This enables me to ensure that my clients are getting optimal returns from their IT investment.
- Throughout my career I have managed to leave any environment for which I had control in better shape than when I took it on. This was normally achieved by taking the more holistic view made possible by my wide range of technical roles and experiences and applying solutions that may not have been evident to others.
- Hobbies:** Reading, game viewing, wines, travel and Open Source software technologies. At home I maintain a network of Linux systems that allows me to experiment with new distributions and releases. In fact all of my home computer resources are Open Source based, so if you notice some formatting errors in this document, they are a result of creating this with libreoffice writer but sending it to you as a Microsoft .doc file. I also run a website (www.inzanix.com) that I use for recording parkrun results. The real purpose behind building this site as to apply my knowledge of flask, docker, jenkins, etc. in a production environment.

SKILLS

- Operating Systems:** VOS, UNIX (various), Windows 95/NT/2000/XP, Linux (LPI Level 1 certified)
- Languages:** COBOL, C/C++, Java, PL/1, HTML, JavaScript, PHP, Python and various Unix shells
- Applications:** Inventory, accounting, financial, manufacturing, payroll, switching, banking, email, messaging

COURSES ATTENDED

AIX System Administration	(IBM)
FTX System Administration	(Stratus)
Sybase Database Administration	(Sybase)
Novell System Administration	(Novell)
NEON Rules & Formatter	(NEON)
Advanced Formatter	(NEON)
Solution Selling	(S2)
Operating System Design	(Trinity College Dublin)
MQSI	(IBM)
webMethods Enterprise Server	(EPI-USE)
webMethods Integration Server	(webMethods)
J2EE Architecture	(CS Holdings)
IBM Portal Server	(CS Holding)
See Beyond e*Gate	(Bytes Technology Group)
See Beyond e*Insight	(Bytes Technology Group)
See Beyond e*Exchange	(Bytes Technology Group)
See Beyond Administration	(Bytes Technology Group)
SAP XI2.0	(SAP South Africa)
JBoss for Java Developers	(Sadalbari)
ITIL V3 Foundation	(Pink Elephant)
Thinking Dimensions	(Kepner & Fourie)
TOGAF 9 Foundation	(RealIRM)
PMI ACP	(Allsys)
Informix DBA	(IBM)

COURSES & TALKS PRESENTED

Introduction to COBOL programming
Advanced COBOL programming
Introduction to BASIC programming
NEON Rules & Formatter
Advanced NEON Formatter
Writing COBOL for portability
Using Micro Focus COBOL to develop graphical applications

PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Development of a payroll system for an Irish manufacturing company that ran on a TI 59 programmable calculator.

Development of a COBOL pre-processor to convert proprietary VOS COBOL syntax to standard ANSI '85. This pre-processor was still in use 12 years after development and may still be.

Development of a UNIX based system to graphically monitor the status of a major bank's ATM network, notifying custodians when machines run low on cash or other resources and alerting network operators if communications is lost. This was still in use ten years after initial implementation.

Design and implementation of a middleware infrastructure for a bank to allow seamless STP routing of transactions from the dealer to either the Johannesburg Stock Exchange or out to the SWIFT network.

Growing Vodacom's free email offering from 80,000 subscribers to over 700,000. In doing this I inherited a service that was continuously blacklisted by all of the major spam listing sites and managed to improve the spam filtering to such an extent that the service had not been listed in over a year at the time I left.

Virtualizing Mango Airlines server environment

I am certified at Level 1 of the Linux Professional Institute's (LPI) but have not yet had time to sit the Level 2 examinations. I have also sat and passed the ITIL Version 3 Foundation Examination and the PMI Agile Certified Practitioner.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

1979 - 1981 CATREI Dublin, Ireland

Developer

This was the Irish distributor for Zilog Micro Computers. I joined them before they were established and was responsible for locating office space, sourcing supplies and liaising with Zilog in the UK. During this period I mastered Ryan MacFarland COBOL and Zilog BASIC (ZBASIC). The Operating System used was a proprietary system named RIO which was quite advanced for an 8 bit system, but for the 16 bit market Zilog moved to ZEUS (Zilog's Enhanced UNIX System). This planted the seed of my interest in UNIX, which interest I have continued to nourish over the years.

1981 - 1983 Stemmos Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Developer

Stemmos were agents for the CP/M based SuperBrain Micro Computers and related software products in the U.A.E. As part of the large and diversified Juma Al Majid group their primary role was developing turnkey solutions for member companies of the group.

I was responsible for the design and development of various custom inventory solutions using COBOL and dBase II. As the company also ran an evening school providing training in various computer technologies I also prepared and presented courses in Micro Focus COBOL and Microsoft BASIC.

1983 Norex Cannes, France

Developer

Norex were a supplier of computerized solutions to the hotel and hospitality industry. Aimed at displacing the industry standard System 34 solutions they were developing a multi user solution running on TurboDOS.

My role as a contractor with the company was to develop an interface between the telephone system and their proprietary Front Desk system. This was accomplished using Ryan MacFarland COBOL and Z80 assembler for the billing and interfacing portions respectively. All application code was written to be usable on IBM's System/34.

1983 - 1987 Dillon Technology London, England

Customer Services Manager

This aim of this start up company was to produce a full featured multi currency, multi company set of business solutions running on micro computers (the initial applications were developed on Xenix and targeted at low end UNIX systems and PC networks). Their target market was the large multi nationals with reporting requirements in different currencies and under various regulatory bodies. Their competition at the time were large mainframe solutions from companies such as MSA, McCormack-Dodge and others.

I initially joined this startup as Development Manager and was responsible for defining methods and standards for the development team. From that basis I then managed the development and release of the first set of multi-currency modules (G/L, P/L & S/L). After these were launched I moved to the sales office as Customer Services Manager to set up the pre and post sales support operations. During this period I was responsible for managing the installation and configuration of many systems worldwide. Normally this work was carried out in conjunction with one of the large auditing firms.

At this time the UNIX market was very fragmented with every hardware manufacturer having their own proprietary version. One of my responsibilities was to work with the European distributors to implement our solution on their UNIX platforms. This exposed me to many different 'interpretations' of UNIX. It also, ultimately, led to Micro Focus requesting my involvement in their beta test programs.

My last task with this company was to work with IBM to implement these systems on IBM's System/36

1998 Howard Systems Plainville, CT, USA

Developer

This company was primarily a supplier of contract staff to the US and international markets. I joined as a contractor shortly after arriving in the USA as a means of gaining time to locate the correct career opportunity.

While there I developed and implemented a bill of materials explosion system at General Electric that operated on both the IBM System/38 for the factory requirements and on PCs for the certification process with the underwriters. This was developed in such a manner that the same code was utilized on both systems, thus easing the maintenance effort in the future.

1988 - 1990 Micro Focus Philadelphia, PA, USA

Technical Specialist

Micro Focus are the world's leading independent supplier of COBOL development tools and compilers. As I had participated in a number of beta release programs for Micro Focus while in the UK, I was approached to join their Philadelphia office.

Once settled I became the technical side of the OEM Marketing team. This involved technical presentations of prototype development tools to the larger ISVs and to the major manufacturers of UNIX workstations. I also designed and developed some of these prototypes and assisted many of the ISVs to migrate from Ryan MacFarland COBOL to Micro Focus. The work was almost exclusively on UNIX platforms and written in COBOL and C.

1990 - 1995 S2 Systems Dallas, TX, USA

Technical Specialist

S2 Systems are one of the leading suppliers of OLTP solutions for switching and processing ATM and POS transactions. In 1990 they embarked on a project to diversify from the proprietary Stratus system to more

Technical Specialist

Due to the breakdown of the relationship with their distributor in the Middle East S2 contacted me and offered me the role of setting up their technical services in the region. This involved developing relationships with seven client banks in the Emirates and five in Saudi Arabia. Most of these banks had no knowledge of S2 as they were used to dealing with the departed distributor. During my time in Dubai I managed, with three staff in Saudi and two others in the UAE, to establish S2 as a local player. This has provided the sales force with the ability to position S2's next generation system as a replacement for the aging ON/X system currently in use in the UAE and the more powerful ON/2 in use in Saudi.

Even after leaving S2 I was recalled at the request of one of the client banks to undertake a project to migrate their ON/X system to a more powerful NCR platform. This project was completed to the satisfaction of both the Bank and S2.

Reason for leaving: wanted to return to South Africa

2002 - 2008 Business Connexion Johannesburg, South Africa

Integration Specialist

Initially my responsibilities here ranged from designing middleware solutions to supporting these solutions once deployed. The majority of the implementations were effected to support Sasol's national network. The work involved liaising with Sasol's business and technical staff on an ongoing basis. The principal purpose of the middleware was to facilitate interfacing of the SAP systems with other, specialized, systems in use at Sasol and with the financial institutions. The technologies involved were NEON's (now Sybase) eBiz Integrator, MQ Series and webMethod's Integration and Enterprise Servers.

For the last couple of years I have been responsible for investigating the use of J2EE and other Open Source technologies to address clients' integration needs. This has covered various commercial packages and the broad range of open source solutions available, though concentrating on products from the JBoss group and the Apache Software Foundation.

I have also acted as Service Delivery Manager managing the support of a WebSphere MQI based integration infrastructure for a major corporation's national network and have been responsible for setting up the support of the webMethods solution in use at one of South Africa's major mobile telephone network operators.

When not involved in some technical issue for Business Connexion or one of our clients I spent my time assisting our sales teams in correctly positioning integration software and Open Source based solutions for our clients and prospects.

My latest assignment has been to take Vodacom's vodamail.co.za email offering live as a free service. This resulted in the number of mailboxes growing from 80,000 to over 700,000 in one year. This growth required the configuration and deployment of additional servers and the building of a small team to support these. The service has been so successful in South Africa that my last assignment has been to implement the same solution, with some local enhancements, in Tanzania. One of these enhancements was the development of a web based administrative console using Python, Twisted and Django.

My duties also included being a senior member of the support team for Vodacom's 3G data network and assisting with matters relating to the running of the vodcom4me web site.

All of these services were built using open source software. Redhat, SUSE and Ubuntu for the operating system, Jboss and Apache for web servers and postfix, spamassassin and courier for mail services. All of this using a large (circa 9 server) LDAP backend and all administration facilitated by python scripts

Reason for leaving: felt my career was going nowhere

2008 - 2010 Barclays Johannesburg, South Africa

MQ Specialist

I joined Barclay's ZA Data Center to provide support for the MQ network that connects Barclays banks throughout Africa and Asia. This was part of an initiative to replace IBM as the total outsource provider with contractors reporting directly to the Data Centre.

My initial duties included managing the knowledge transfer from IBM, but when I realized that IBM had no real procedures in place, nor any foundation for scalability, I developed a set of shell scripts to allow for easier maintenance and administration of the MQ infrastructure. These scripts have allowed me hand over first line support to an established team that were lacking in MQ skills, with the team that I have started to build providing 2nd and 3rd line support. (Scripting was used because 'development' is frowned upon in this Data Centre environment so there were no real languages available to me at that time, see below).

When I started the MQ infrastructure was supporting banks in two countries, it has since expanded to 5 countries with another 5 in the pipeline at the moment. During these months I have been actively involved in re-architecting parts of the infrastructure to further reduce dependency on IBM by streamlining the steps in processing RTGS payments to the Reserve Bank of India. I have also implemented management of remote Queue Managers via a proxy Queue Manager to simplify support of payment processing for both RTGS and SWIFT payments.

Unix Technical Manager

In March of 2009 I was offered the management of the Unix team. This team consisted of 7 AIX, 2 Solaris and 1 Linux specialists responsible for the 100+ LPARs, 22 Solaris Zones and ever growing number of Red Hat Linux servers on which Barclays hosts banking operations for the emerging markets.

To date I have overseen the design and deployment of a more secure user management environment, the introduction of LDAP and the creation of a test environment in which to simulate our SAN infrastructure. These among many other innovations including the introduction of ntp, syslog and rsync to assist in managing and securing this large and growing environment.

Reason for leaving: In February 2010 Barclays announced their intention to *globalize* their support services which meant that most of my team's functions would be moved to India, Lithuania and elsewhere. Though there was a possibility of continuing in a different role I decided that it was time to move on.

2010 - 2011 Standard Bank Africa Johannesburg, South Africa

IT Architect

SBA were taking a slightly different approach to providing computing services throughout Africa involving a different Core Banking supplier and deploying servers in-country rather than a centralized solution. To ensure the quality of this initiative they were setting up an Architecture team for the Africa environment.

Due to my extensive and varied experience in various IT roles I was considered an appropriate candidate to join this young and growing team. My initial responsibilities were to fill the Architecture role for the Core Banking rollout with particular emphasis on the newly developed ESB which was seen as a key factor in the success of the program. This allowed me to apply my extensive experience of integration to ensuring that the correct approach and best practices were applied to the integration effort.

Six months later when my contract came up for renewal SBA offered me a permanent position. As I was enjoying the role and the team I worked with, not to mention the fact that they made the offer quite attractive, I accepted.

Since then I have become more deeply involved in the Core Banking programme, though still retaining my architectural responsibilities for integration technology across Africa. Core Banking has involved me in all aspects of banking activities covering channels, payments, cash management and other areas. It has also involved mediating conflicting viewpoints and priorities (e.g. project deadline versus long term strategy) which, though sometimes challenging, has been an interesting experience.

Reason for leaving: restructuring, actually a merge of the architecture departments for South Africa and Africa, which I felt lost a lot of what had attracted me to the role

2011 - 2016

Mango Airlines Johannesburg, South Africa

DevOps Manager

Mango, a young and expanding low cost carrier, had decided that they should insource the development and support of their reservation system. This required building a team proficient in all the technologies underpinning this application. This included Linux as the server OS for the back end systems, which involved a Tuxedo hosted set of services backed by an Informix database server and Windows as the front end platform for both a VB GUI and a .NET web application.

The applications were a mixture of C, C++, SQL and VB with supporting scripts in bash, perl and Windows command language.

As some of the required skills are quite scarce and people who have experience of even just a majority of these skills even more scarce, recruiting the staff for the planned team proved more problematic than anticipated. The result of this is that I had to become adept in all areas on the back end and some on the front end (we had managed to locate a Windows developer). All of this was happening at the same time as I built a new development environment and implemented development policies.

Added to this were the requirements to learn a new industry and to take over a lot of the relationships with both our local and foreign outsource partners. Mango also have a growing number of business partners in both the banking and retail sectors with which the internal systems need to integrate, this required me to take over all technical integration engagements with these partners.

The difficulties were compounded by the discovery shortly after joining that all of the technologies were quite old and most had already been declared EOL, or were about to be. Plans to upgrade these were delayed by the necessity to continually add new functionality to the systems as well as to keep the existing services running. This in addition to expanding the development team and launching a series of projects to virtualize all of our servers.

When I left Mango the development team was 6 strong and still increasing, all of the servers had been virtualized and were on supported versions of the OS, database software and other middleware.

Reason for leaving: I reported to the CIO so there was no possible career progression

2016 -

Oracle Cloud Services Cape Town, South Africa

DevOps Engineer

I was approached by Oracle to join their support team in Cape Town. As this operation appeared to be built mainly on open source technology this was of great interest to me. I was not disappointed, the range of open source technologies in use is fascinating. This also inspired me to start the construction of a private cloud at home utilizing openstack. This exercise has given me great insights into how the various components interact in the cloud.

Though the Oracle Public Cloud Support (and Development) teams are based in Cape Town, my agreement with Oracle is that I work from home in Johannesburg with occasional trips to the Cape Town office. Our team acts as L3 support receiving incidents from L1 and L2 teams for triage. This involves analyzing the ticket to determine which aspect of the cloud is involved (compute, network, storage or other), advising the reporter on how to address the problem (workaround, patch, re-config, etc.) and, where necessary, reporting the problem, recreation steps and required fix back to Development for action.

Where a problem is recurrent it may be necessary to document a standard set of steps (Standard Operating Procedures or SOPs) which can be provided to the L1 or L2 teams for execution. I have written a number of these, which are still in successful use pending the deployment of a fix. These covered such varied topics as managing the number of xend processes, migrating a NoSQL database node to management of disk space usage by loop devices. Many of these SOPs are accompanied by scripts to automate the steps. These are currently developed in python or bash but we will be moving to an Ansible based remediation approach.

Many of the incidents with which we deal are originated by smoke tests (continuous tests running around the clock) which are managed by jenkins. For troubleshooting we use a variety of in-house developed tools, many deployed on docker containers. The Oracle landscape utilizes many overlapping technologies, e.g. chef, ansible, docker, kubernetes, swarm, etc. with which we have varying levels of interaction.

Since our team interacts with many other teams around the globe we utilize zoom (conferencing) and slack (collaboration) for coordination both between and within teams. These tools also facilitate my working from home.