

Rob Thomas

Developer, Network Architect, Automation Specialist

Contact

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Career Highlights

Author, FreePBX
Vyatta/DANOS/VyOS Technical
Writer, and VyOS contributor
Everything Open 2024 (previously
Linux.Conf.Au) Conference
Organiser and Manager
3 times Nominee APNIC
Executive Committee
Cisco InfoSec Manager,
Asia/Pacific

Objective

I am looking for a new challenge in Australia. Over the last 30 years, I have been deeply involved with the Internet, Australia and worldwide. This has ranged from running an ISP in the late 1990s, being Cisco's AP InfoSec Manager in the early 2000s, to being deeply involved in VoIP and related networking recently.

Recent Experience

Jul 2004 – Current (Owner, AdHoc)

WPM4L Pty Ltd/AussieVoIP – Network Consultant and Developer,
Technical Writer

Nov 2019 – June 2025

Clearly IP (USA) – Founding Engineer, Enterprise Architect, Senior
Network Engineer

Oct 2018 – Jan 2020

Over the Wire (Brisbane) – Senior VoIP Engineer, Faktortel Migration
Lead

Jan 2017 – Oct 2018

Sangoma (Canada) – Network Architect, QA Manager

Core Skills

Automation:

Ansible, Chef, Puppet, Bash/Make

Network OS's

Vyatta/VyOS (Juniper-like), NXOS, IOS, Cumulus, and similar
Routing/Switching

MPLS, VLAN/VXLAN, Spanning Tree, BGP, OSPF (v2/v3) etc.

IPv6-first network designer

Documentation

Proven track record of Documentation-first designs and workflows

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Overview

I am an experienced Software and Network engineer and administrator, with a well-known public history of high-quality network design, using repeatable deployment automation and documentation, and for being a strong advocate of DevOps principles.

I am passionate about clean code, repeatable developer tooling, and improving operational efficiency through automation and integrated monitoring and documentation.

I have built several networks from the ground up, which has taught me the importance of documentation, monitoring, and redundancy, and making sure that high-availability is in the design by default.

I am based in Gladstone, Central Queensland. I am looking for a mostly-remote position, but I am flexible, and open to all interesting roles. I am not able to relocate, but I am able to be work-from-office for a week at a time if needed (I am an active part of multiple Greyhound Rescue groups that often require me to be in Central Queensland for weekends).

As I have primarily done work-from-home for the last 10+ years, I have an extremely resilient internet connection, with multiple links to upstream services. To me it is as critical as having access to a Car or similar, as it has not been possible for me to do my job without it!

External Links

- <https://github.com/xrobau> - My personal Github public org. This contains many public repositories, including popular Ansible and IOT (e.g., NTP) tools
- <https://mastodon.au/@xrobau> - I admin and host Mastodon.au and mastodon.nz as a Pro-Bono service.
- <https://2024.everythingopen.au/> - Everything Open 2024 (ex Linux.conf.au), that I organised and ran in Gladstone in 2024.
- <https://github.com/yoursipai/ava> - Complete toolset (Ansible, Makefiles, Bash) to build and deploy a fully functional locally hosted AI PBX service

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or think you may have a job I could be interested in, and thanks for taking an interest.