



Michael Sullivan

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[Distributed Thinking Systems](#), [GitHub](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Profile

Experienced and highly technical IT professional with over 35 years in the industry, specializing in Unix/Linux systems, distributed computing, digital forensics, and AI engineering. With 20 years in management roles in the financial, telecom, and e-commerce sectors, bringing deep experience in transaction systems, compliance, and vendor management. Comfortable leading cross-functional teams or building tools hands-on, I develop production-grade software, deploy CI/CD pipelines, maintain open-source utilities and Apple-approved macOS applications. My work integrates systems architecture, strategy, and full-stack development with a focus on automation, privacy, and intelligent analysis.

Experience

FOUNDER AND PRINCIPAL, DISTRIBUTED THINKING SYSTEMS LLC, MEMPHIS, TN- JUN 2023 - PRESENT

- LogGPT (App Store): Built and submitted a native Safari Web Extension for downloading ChatGPT conversations in JSON format. Prioritizes privacy, local control, and zero tracking.
- TorchDevice: Created a compatibility layer that enables unmodified PyTorch+CUDA code to run on Apple Silicon via Metal without coding changes, allowing migration or simple execution.
- VenvUtil: Developed a virtual environment management tool for AI/ML workflows with changelog generation, Markdown/HTML extraction, and CI integration.
- UnicodeFix: Engineered a Unicode/UTF-8 sanitizer to clean malformed corpora used in AI pipelines.
- Case Analytics / Co-Parenting Helper (Prototype): Based on real-world experience, created an AI-powered system for family law contexts. Provides forensic conversation analysis and pattern recognition to detect early signs of parental alienation in legal texts, transcripts, and communications.
- unixwzrd.com: Architected and maintain a Jekyll-based documentation/blog site with automated deployment via GitHub Actions.
- Built Python-based transcription and cleanup tools using iZotope RX and Reaper DAW for analysis of recorded conversations.
- Conducted forensic recovery of data from Apple devices, applying both proprietary and open-source methods.

UNIX SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT, ECS FEDERAL, MEMPHIS, TN – NOV 2020 - JUN 2023

- Managed the applications release process in an Agile environment from development to production, ensuring quick and efficient delivery with contingency plans.
- Troubleshoot logistics systems and applications issues across all environments for the US Postal Service.
- Provided Unix Systems Support for 900 Unix/Linux servers in development, test, QA, and production.
- Supported operating systems issues arising from applications, including performance tuning and permissions alignment.

PRINCIPAL, CONSULTING SERVICES, DCS, LLC, NASHVILLE, TN – MAY 2009 - NOV 2020

- Designed and implemented VPN and firewall services using pfSense, Snort, IPSec, and OpenVPN.
- Led an international team to create an IaaS appliance, managing storage, compute, and control components in a single rack.
- Designed a small/medium-sized business NAS storage appliance with data encryption, compression, and deduplication.
- Developed a backup service for DaaS cloud-based storage.

MANAGER - PRODUCTION DIV., AOZORA INFORMATION SYSTEMS, TOKYO – FEB 2006 - MAY 2009

- Managed a \$33M budget and prepared reports for senior executives.
- Reduced costs through consolidation using VMware on Linux, achieving a 15% year-over-year savings for two years.
- Co-managed a team of 25 administrators and led project work.
- Built a CMDB for cataloging datacenter and desktop hardware, and implemented a cost allocation model for IT services.

PRINCIPAL, CONSULTING SERVICES, DCS, LLC, TOKYO – MAY 2005 - FEB 2006

- Managed the migration of internet services, including software upgrades and system configuration for a data center relocation.
- Created a proprietary online trading system for a private hedge fund in Tokyo.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR - HEAD OF SYSTEMS, KBC SECURITIES JAPAN, TOKYO – MAY 2002 - MAY 2005

- Managed a team of 5 employees and provided daily systems operations support.
- Supported global standardization of systems architecture and infrastructure.
- Managed market data support for Bloomberg and Reuters platforms.

MANAGER OF DISTRIBUTED UNIX SYSTEMS, CABLEVISION, LONG ISLAND, NY – OCT 2001 - APR 2002

- Managed a team of 15 UNIX Systems Administrators providing 24/7 support for critical operations.
- Oversaw a \$1.5M annual budget and provided mentorship to junior staff. Principal, Consulting Services, DCS, LLC, New York Metropolitan Area – Oct 1994 - Oct 2001
- Managed teams of 4 to 15 UNIX Systems and Database Administrators.
- Designed and implemented strategic information system architecture for internet commerce applications.
- Developed and managed backup and recovery plans for client data centers.
- Clients: NYNEX, Sun Microsystems, SkyMall.com, Recollections Inc. (Zing), InsureMyTrip.com.

VICE PRESIDENT/SYSTEMS ARCHITECT, MERRILL LYNCH, NEW YORK, NY – APR 1992 - OCT 1994

- Led the development and implementation of applications and systems architecture for a financial systems migration project.
- Provided development support and training to a staff of 200 developers.

Awards:

- Merrill Lynch President's Award for Excellence - First Quarter 1993

PROJECT MANAGER, SALOMON BROTHERS INC., NEW YORK, NY – AUG 1987 - APR 1992

- Designed, implemented, and supported a national network infrastructure for investment banking.
- Managed a staff of 12 administrators and developers, and successfully managed the relocation of the investment banking group to a new headquarters.

Awards:

- Business Technology Organization Communications Award – Feb 1991
- Business Technology Organization Communications Award – Feb 1990.

Technical Skills

AI/ML: PyTorch, NumPy, Llama.cpp, Transformers (HuggingFace), Whisper, OpenAI API & GPT's, ElevenLabs, Weights&Biases

DevOps/Tooling: GitHub Actions, CI/CD, Jekyll, Test Automation, Static Site Deployment, Linting Pipelines, Apple Notarization, Safari Web Extension, macOS Shortcuts

Software: Visual Studio Code, ServiceNow, iZotope RX, Reaper DAW, X11, ZFS, Veritas, Apache, Tomcat, LDAP, DNS, Git/GitHub, NFS, CIFS, NMAP, Snort

Database: Oracle 10g, 9i, 8.x, PostgreSQL, MySQL, SQLite, Redis/Dragonfly, Berkeley DB

Programming: Bash & Shell, Python, Perl, C, SQL, Ruby, Markdown, YAML, JSON, Swift, HTML, XML, UML, JavaScript

Systems: OpenSolaris, Solaris, Linux, macOS, VMWare, VirtualBox, MVS (z/OS), TSO

Network Infrastructure: TCP/IP, NTP, HTTP, SMTP, POP3, IMAP, SNMP, NNTP, NAT, Cisco Configuration, Firewalls, IPsec, OpenVPN, pfSense, SSH and Tunneling, Oracle SQL*Net, FIX, Bloomberg, Reuters, F5

Applications: Microsoft Office, Apple Productivity Suite (Pages, Keynote, Numbers)

Hardware: Apple Silicon (ARM), Sun SPARC, Intel x86

Education

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN - PhD work, Neuroscience/Psychiatry, 2014 - 2016

University of Texas, Arlington, TX - BBA, Information Systems

Languages

English: Native

Japanese: Basic

Licenses and Clearances

- USPS Public Trust Clearance - valid through November 2025
- FAA License: Private Pilot, Airplane Single/Multi Engine Land - Instrument Airplane

Professional Involvement

GitHub Repositories: Active in maintaining and contributing to various open-source projects on GitHub.

Professional Memberships: Member of USENIX, ACM, The Open Group, and the Apple Developer Network.

Community Engagement: Founder and active participant in the New York Systems Administrators group, the Tokyo OpenSolaris Users Group, and the Tokyo Linux Users Group (TLUG).

Public Advocacy: Writing on AI ethics, parental alienation, and forensic communication analysis.