# Benny Sparks

Network Engineer / Linux Systems Admin

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## Summary

I bring a strong background in Project Management, PC Architecture and Software and Security.  Over the years, I have geared my specialty towards network security, TCP/IP and WAN communications.  I have had the opportunity to attend several training classes dealing with LAN/WAN related issues and theory.  I am proficient with multiple topologies, protocols, diagnostic tools and vendor products. My past relationships with vendors and coworkers have been excellent. My research and problem solving skills are my most valuable assets.

Specialties: Network Analysis, Network Design, Internet Security

## Experience

**Network Engineer / Linux Systems Admin**

April 2015  -  Present

NCCS is the Department of Energy's High Performance Computing group located on the campus of the Oak Ridge National Lab. My group maintains all aspects of LAN/WAN infrastructure and security. Design, procurement, installation and maintenance of internal infrastructure to support the Titan Super Computer and other computing resources. We are almost totally open source driven as it pertains to the network management and monitoring systems. These are Linux based services and requires a in depth knowledge of Linux and scripting techniques.  Maintaining a high speed, redundant infrastructure is the primary responsibility of my group.

**SCinet Edge Team Co-Lead**

September 2012  -  Present

I am also part of the SCinet Network Team. We are volunteers that our organizations loan to IEEE to provide the design, procurement and installation of the Super Computing show that occurs every year in various cities in November each year. This past year I was charges with being the Co-Lead of the Edge Network Team. My team provides wired and wireless connectivity to all vendor participates and tutorial locations around the convention center. This work necessitates 3 weeks on site work during the show and several trips through the year to meet, design and procure the necessary hardware. During SC week our network has several 100 gigabit paths to external services making it the fastest  in the world.

**Network Engineer / Linux Systems Admin**

September 2011  -  March 2015 (3 years 7 months)

NICS is the High Performance Computing group for the University of Tennessee located on the campus of the Oak Ridge National Lab. I maintained all aspects of LAN/WAN infrastructure and security. Design, procurement, installation and maintenance of internal infrastructure and WAN connectivity. Monitoring and tuning high speed WAN BGP peers connected to public Internet and private high speed low latency backbones to other computing centers around the country. I managed DHCP, DNS, Nagios servers as part of my administration duties.

**Senior Network Engineer at Covenant Health System**
April 2007  -  August 2011 (4 years 5 months)

Senior Engineer responsible for managing all aspects of Covenant's 15000 node network. The network is multi-subnetted and is of a highly complex design. It consists of multiple routers and switches containing over 150 VLAN's and several dynamic routing protocols. LAN management duties include support for end users, evaluation, procurement and installation of new systems, data communications, hardware and software platforms, as well as, all network security. I also administer remote access via Cisco VPN 3030, Cisco ASA 5540 and Cisco ACS/Radius appliances. Duties also include deployment and management of Juniper Netscreen firewalls as well as configuration of all Cisco edge products and 3Com core routers and switches. Responsibilities include for design and documentation of additional segments and office and campuses, management of Tippingpoint IPS devices and overview of 7 Network Technicians work from a technical aspect. I am also responsible for all LAN management solutions, IPS/IDS components and DWDM equipment. We have 9 acute facilities with a combination of Dark Fiber backed up by a OC48 Sonet Ring in combination with a Metro Ethernet cloud consisting of 8 smaller facilites. There is a variety of ADSL for which we are the ISP in the local area for all our telecommuters. We alo use Cable Broadband and have 50 sites that are connected with T1's with some of these have multiple boned T1's for connectivity.

**Senior Network Engineer**
September 1996  -  March 2007 (10 years 7 months)

Responsibilities included managing all aspects of BHS's 2500 node network. The network is multi-subnetted and is of a highly complex design. It consists of multiple routers and switches containing multiple VLAN's and multiple routing protocols. LAN management duties included support for end users, evaluation, procurement and installation of new systems, data communications, hardware and software platforms, as well as, all network security. I also administered remote access, external email systems and routing functionality.  Remote access via dialup or broadband is granted using Steelbelted RADIUS and Cisco IPSEC or Windows PPTP VPN clients.  I supervised, directed and evaluated network technicians and associated support staffs.  I was responsible for my employee concerns and problems. This included work assignments, counseling, disciplining, and completing employee appraisals.

**Network Engineer**
January 1988  -  August 1996 (8 years 8 months)

Engineering responsibilities included LAN-WAN hardware, software, infrastructure design, troubleshooting, and installation of new and existing systems.   Administrative responsibilities included developing

specifications for new datacom hardware and managing existing systems. Data communication responsibilities included configuration, installation, and maintenance of routers, bridges, hubs, switches, ISDN, T1/Frac T1, DDS hardware, Frame Relay circuits, remote access servers, printservers, and fileservers.

## Education

**DeVry Institute of Technology**
Associates, Electronic Engineering, 1984 - 1986
**Activities and Societies:** Presidential Honor Society
**Anderson County High School**
Diploma, General Studies, 1980 - 1984

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