Gonda Ennis

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PLATFORM & AUTOMATION ENGINEER — AGENTIC AI SYSTEMS

Agentic AI Infrastructure – Platform Engineering & DevSecOps – Regulated Linux Environments

Platform and automation engineer with 30 years of experience building reliable Linux platforms and engineering foundations, including extensive work in regulated environments (FedRAMP, CMMC, SOX). Applying that production engineering discipline to agentic AI systems, including self-hosted tool-calling agents running on local LLMs and client-facing applications built with AI coding agents. Hands-on with RAG, OAuth, MFA, and human-in-the-loop authorization; trained in MCP. Focused on the foundations that make agentic systems repeatable, observable, secure, and practical to operate: automation, CI/CD, least-privilege access, and evaluating model reliability in practice.

AI PROJECTS

Digital Twin Agent | Python | 2026

AI-assisted development using Claude Code | Public demo: ai-twin.adnog.net/meet-nixnooi-a8f3k2/?r=13b

- Designed and deployed a self-hosted, tool-calling AI agent as a hardened Linux service with a dedicated service account, reverse proxy, and Git-based deployment.
- Moved inference from a hosted API to fully local LLMs, keeping visitor data on owned hardware and eliminating per-token costs.
- Implemented a retrieval-augmented generation (RAG) pipeline in place of context stuffing, so a local model gets only relevant context.
- Evaluated local models for tool-calling reliability and tuned prompts so the agent logs unanswerable questions rather than hallucinating.

Client Scheduling Application | Python | 2026

AI-assisted development using Claude Code | Public demo with artificial data: demo.enjoytheridewithnorm.com/

- Designed, built, and deployed a client-facing Python scheduling application, directing Claude Code from requirements and architecture through implementation and operation.
- Integrated Google Calendar with read-only OAuth: the app generates event links for the operator to review and add in their own authenticated session, and cannot create or modify events itself.
- Added SMS/email channels so clients can book without using the web UI.
- Protected application access with Authelia/TOTP MFA behind a Caddy reverse proxy.
- Designed for multi-tenancy, using client-specific configuration and isolated per-tenant processes running from a shared codebase.
- Used locally hosted Ollama models to anonymize client information for demonstrations and generate test data, keeping real customer details out of shared demo and test environments.

SELECTED CAREER IMPACT

- **Fail-Fast Pipelines:** At Envestnet, added state validation checks at GitLab CI/CD pipeline handoffs to catch invalid conditions early, delivering immediate, actionable error messages at the point of failure and preventing cascading pipeline failures.
- **Environment Automation:** Cut developer and test box builds at Ansys from about two days of manual work to 30 minutes by extending Ansible automation to systems previously built by hand.
- **Controlled Access to Sensitive Data:** Built a Perl CGI service giving users controlled HTTP access to SOX-protected production data at Aramark, with every request logged and no direct server logins required.

Core Competencies

Platform Engineering | Agentic AI Systems | Infrastructure & Deployment Automation | CI/CD & DevSecOps | Tool Calling & Integration | Identity & Access Controls | Observability & Reliability | Regulated Environments

Professional Experience

Ansys (Synopsys) | Exton, PA **2023 – 2026**
Systems Engineer – Linux Platform Automation

Built and maintained Ansible automation across a ~130-server RHEL 7–9 estate spanning production, staging, restricted FedRAMP environments, physical workstations, and virtual servers.

- Implemented sshd and access controls meeting FedRAMP, CMMC, and SOX requirements, and advanced CMMC readiness through documentation.
- Strengthened security posture during an organization-wide security incident by contributing to credential rotation, legacy-account elimination, and the transition toward role-based access controls.
- Rebuilt non-idempotent Ansible automation for base server builds, establishing reliable, repeatable server states and enabling security patching and OS releases without manual intervention.
- Standardized the server lifecycle from VM provisioning through OS upgrades, hardening, and security patching using Ansible and Red Hat Satellite.
- Integrated NVIDIA driver deployment using precompiled kernel modules, AD/SSSD authentication, Duo MFA, Trellix, Artifactory, and Prometheus across the environment.

ENVESTNET | Berwyn, PA **2018 – 2023**
Senior Platform Engineer | 2022 – 2023
Senior Systems Engineer | 2018 – 2022

Go-to Linux expert for project teams on ERS, AWS UMP, Folio, SRE, and Architecture Modernization work.

- Diagnosed recurring GitLab CI/CD build failures, which were occurring in approximately 50% of builds, by tracing pipeline logs to underlying build-process problems and correcting the failures.
- Built a boto3/CloudFormation solution to secure Windows resources through AWS security groups, deriving the implementation from a minimal internal sample and AWS CloudTrail logs.
- Accelerated a development cycle by ~6 months and enabled code to pass internal security audit from the outset by mentoring a junior programmer on design, methodology, and security.
- Identified and returned 30% of unused compute capacity by creating the first complete inventory of servers, architecture, code, and processes.

ARAMARK | Philadelphia, PA **2012 – 2018**
Senior Technical Analyst / Linux Systems Administration

Hands-on engineer for a 180+ RHEL and 20 HP-UX server estate. Contributed physical and virtual build standards, disaster recovery procedures, and Red Hat Satellite deployment automation, working alongside database, storage, and Windows teams.

- Improved Linux incident-reporting accuracy by 80% and reduced after-hours calls by customizing open-source Xymon monitoring.
- Served as Linux expert on the first DevOps proof-of-concept team, using Pivotal Cloud Foundry and Azure to build and deploy a custom application.

***Additional Experience**: **Unix System Administrator** — CTDI | **Lead Consultant** — Change-IT Corporation| **Unix Consultant** — CoreTech Consulting| **Software Developer** — BSW-Data, South Africa. Earlier software engineering experience includes C/C++ and UNIX applications supporting real-time industrial control, telecommunications monitoring, and data-intensive systems.*

Technical Expertise

- **AI & Agentic Systems:** Python, Claude Code, MCP, OpenAI API, Ollama, tool/function calling, model routing, Gradio
- **Platform Automation & CI/CD:** Ansible, Red Hat Satellite, GitLab CI/CD, AWS CloudFormation, AWS CLI, Bash, Perl, PowerShell, boto3
- **Identity, Access & Security:** Google OAuth, Authelia/TOTP MFA, Duo MFA, AD/SSSD, RBAC, Caddy, Trellix, CrowdStrike Falcon
- **Cloud & Infrastructure:** AWS, Azure, VMware vSphere 7/8, RHEL 7–9, Rocky Linux, Fedora, HP-UX, Solaris, AIX
- **Observability:** Prometheus, Grafana, Xymon, Nagios XI, HP OpenView, Graylog, New Relic One

Education & Professional Development

BS, Computer Science & Mathematical Statistics | Nelson Mandela University (formerly University of Port Elizabeth), South Africa

AI Coder: Complete Claude Code & Coding Agents Course | Udemy, Jul 2026

AI Engineer Agentic Track: The Complete Agent & MCP Course | Udemy, Jun 2026

Learn DevOps: Complete Kubernetes Course | Udemy, 2023

Architecting for Reliability on AWS | Pluralsight, 2022

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