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VA überGeeks

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VA Linux Systems is proud to be home to some of the best & brightest in the Linux Community. Here's a list of some of our Geeks who have made a splash in the Linux world.



Jeremy Allison

Samba Team/Professional Services

Jeremy Allison is probably best known for having co-authored [Samba](#), but he has an impressive list of credits to add to that. Among other things, Jeremy has worked on such projects as [Cygwin32](#), gcc and libc, [FreeBSD](#), NT Seclib, pwdump and Lesstif. Jeremy studied Physics and

Astronomy at the University of Sheffield, but sadly his PhD is not written up. Jeremy also cites an education in the "School of Hard Knocks." Jeremy also holds a position on the Board of Advisors for Linux Magazine.



Bruce O. Benson

Senior Electrical Engineer

Bruce is the hardware taskmaster of the CSCG. Besides being responsible for our latest 148 node cluster, Bruce runs the Custom Engineering Group. Since graduating from Old Dominion University, Bruce has held positions at I-Net, Sparta, and Wyle Labs prior to coming to VA Linux Systems, and has shown a consistent tenacity when working on a project. Other interests include embedded systems, security/encryption, and the occasional

dabbling in HAM radio. Bruce also holds the title of Co-Chair, NovaLUG Security SIG.

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Chris DiBona

Linux Evangelist

Chris DiBona has been using Linux since early 1995. In addition to being the Linux International web master and grant chair, he is VA Linux Systems' Community Evangelist and is President of the [Silicon Valley Linux Users Group](#).

When it comes to writing, he sold his first article at 17 and has written for TechWeek, The Vienna Times, Linux Journal and for two years was the editor of the Terrorist Profile Weekly.

He was the co-editor of the O'Reilly book "Open Sources - Voices from the Open Source Software Revolution) and is working on another book from O'Reilly due to be released Early next year.

His current development project (Developed under the code name LookOut) is next generation information client.



Walt Drummond

Director of Software Engineering

Walt came to us from SGI, where he worked in the Network Engineering Group on Naming Services. He also did research on Linux-based clusters and appliance-style servers. Walt is now part of the IA-64 Development Team and working on the Linux Kernel, concentrating hardware/platform specific details, SMP and firmware support.

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Brian Elliott Finley

Sr. Systems Engineer

Prior to coming to VA Linux Systems, Brian worked for himself as an independent consultant. He has been working in the computer industry since 1990, specializing in operating systems, system architecture, and system integration. In 1993 he found Linux and fell in love.

He is very active in the Dallas/Fort Worth Linux Users Group, and recently served a year as President. In his spare time he likes to work on software projects. He is the author of SystemImager <http://systemimager.sourceforge.net/>, and is currently in the process of writing a Linux related book for Addison-Wesley.

The VA Linux UberGeeks:

- ✂ [Jeremy Allison](#)
- ✂ [Bruce Benson](#)
- ✂ [Chris DiBona](#)
- ✂ [Walt Drummond](#)
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- ✂ [John Goebel](#)
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- ✂ [Alex T. Win](#)
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John Goebel
Cluster Application Developer

John Goebel graduated from Washington College with a degree in sculpture, and one class short of a minor in analytic philosophy. He started working with computers in the evenings creating animations and illustrations for games for Broderbund Software. For seven years he worked as a motorcycle courier in Washington D.C. on a vintage Ducati - a 1975 860 GT. His first UNIX was Irix; his first Linux distribution was Slackware. He worked at the American Association of Retired Persons as their Webmaster for three years. Now he is in the Cluster and Scientific Computing group (CSCG) at VA Linux Systems. He lives in Santa Cruz with his wife Christina, and his Leonberger dog Tonka.

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Tony 'fusion94' Guntharp
Sourceforge Project Manager

Prior to joining VA Linux Systems, Tony helped to found Fresher Information Corp, a San Francisco startup. While there Tony designed and architected their USENET search engine. Tony has over 9 years of experience leading projects in systems engineering and integration, particularly in the design and implementation of Internet applications. Most recently, he acted as Systems Architect/Software Engineer at healthshop.com, an e-commerce startup focused on natural health products. He has repeatedly launched the information technology infrastructure of startups while at A3 Ventures, planet U, and at NTT's Multimedia Communications Labs.

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Carsten 'Raster' Haitzler
Senior Software Engineer

Raster comes to us from Australia, where he earned his Bachelor of Computer Science degree from the University of New South Wales. Having begun his computer career on an Amiga500, and later turned to Linux as the OS of choice, he can now lay claim to having authored (and co-authored) many of the more well-known Linux projects. You will see his name linked with [Enlightenment](#) and related programs, Electric Eyes, several GNOME projects, Fnlb, Imlib, Window Maker, [E-Term](#), Esound, Efm (Enlightenment file manager), and Xscreensaver, as well as contributions to the XFree86 and GTK code.

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Simon Horman
Senior Software Engineer

Simon Horman is from Sydney, Australia and works as a Senior Software Engineer on Load Balancing and High Availability projects. Prior to this he was the Senior Technician at Zip World, an ISP in Sydney, Australia. Simon moved to Zip World after a stint at Open Systems Integrators' Australian office, where he implemented the network management system used for the Optus cable TV network. For his honors thesis in Computer Science at The University of New South Wales, he worked on using genetic algorithms to schedule the university examinations timetable. His primary interest is computer networks, particularly how this makes information accessible to people (that and playing pool).

Simon has been involved in many open source projects including: Super Sparrow, Ultra Monkey, The Linux Virtual Server, Heartbeat, Perdion and The PAM patches to Cucipop. In his "spare" time, Simon works on a test network called Vergenet.



Michael Jennings
Software Engineer

Michael's first computer was a 486/33, but his introduction to Linux came later, when he found himself working on Linux workstations at [The Auto Channel](#). Since that time, he has become best known for having authored the most impressive terminal program ever: [E-Term](#). Listed among his other projects are [Enlightenment](#), [imlib](#), The Not Game, and the Enlightenment [Epplets](#). At VA Linux, he has co-authored the VA Cluster Manager (VACM).

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Greg Kucharo
Engineer

Greg Kucharo is a 10 year industry veteran. He has worked in tech support, programming, testing and manufacturing of computers for the likes of IBM, Hitachi, Apple and now VA Linux. A graduate of the University of Iowa, he cut his programming teeth on the school's Apollo workstations and spent entirely too much time playing MUD's. He has contributed to two up coming books on Linux and is the former publicity director of the [Silicon Valley Linux User's Group](#). He is married and lives in Silicon

Valley. When Linux World Domination(TM) is complete, he will retire to someplace far away.



Meg 'Maven' Lauber
Web Design Goddess, Resident Black-coat

Meg has been with VA Linux Systems for over 2 years now, and an avid Linux user for about 3 years. She started out her Silicon Valley career in System Administration at a local ISP, and moved on to become firmly entrenched in the halls of VA Linux. She has the distinction of being the first female at VA Linux in a technical role. She has been known as the Tech Support Maven, and more recently has been inducted into the Web Goddess Clan.



San 'Nettwerk' Mehat
Engineer

San Mehat has covered a lot of ground in a short period of time. San wrote the first Linux in a PC BIOS and the first artificially intelligent network scanner. San is one of the most prominent names with respect to hardware/software interfaces for Linux. San is an expert on embedded Linux, and prior to working at VA Linux Systems, was the Chief Architect of the Corel Netwinder. Recent accomplishments includes authoring the VA Linux Reliance Desktop, and being the driving force behind the VA Cluster Manager (VACM, pronounced 'Vacuum'); if you ever conceive of using real server management for the Linux platform, someone like San is indispensable. San has previously worked for companies like Corel and Nortel. He is the author and maintainer of the TCP/IP drinking game, and likes to DJ when he can (mostly in the lab area where he and his DJ equipment reside along with the Enlightenment/Eterm team).



Marc "The Crazy Frenchman" Merlin
Engineering/Linux IA/64 Sysadmin

Marc, or The Crazy Frenchman (as we like to call him), is one of our more colorful UberGeeks. He got his Masters from EFREI, in Paris, spent a semester at USC (Los Angeles) and spent 3 months in Japan, in Hakodate. He holds the position of Vice President of the [Silicon Valley Linux Users Group](#), as well as [Linux Freak](#) and [Linux Reporter Emeritus](#). Among his many project credits is the duplicate IP and Mac address Linux kernel patch, bugfixes for [Debian](#) Linux, as well as [Midnight Commander](#), [XGmod](#) and [Watchdog](#).

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Sean 'Shaleh' Perry
Debian Hacker

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Andrew Tridgell, Ph.D.

Andrew Tridgell, Ph.D., one of the world's leading Linux developers, is the original author of Samba. Andrew joined the VA Linux NAS team in March 2001, bringing more than ten years of experience in integrating Windows and UNIX systems. Considered one of the world's leading authorities on the CIFS/SMB protocol, Andrew is also the inventor of the rsync algorithm for efficient file transfer and the author of several significant benchmarking tools used by the Linux kernel development team. "Tridge" (as he is known) reports that he was one of the few witnesses who actually saw Linus Torvalds being bitten by a penguin.



Ted Ts'o
Principal Engineer

Ted Ts'o has a long involvement with Linux; he has been a kernel developer since version 0.10 and is the author of the Ext2 filesystem. Anyone running Linux is using code that Ted wrote. He is one of the world's leading minds with respect to Kerberos security and one of the TSX/11 maintainers. Among other things, he is also noted for his work on the serial port/tty layer, POSIX job control, and the /dev/random entropy driver. He is an MIT graduate and still maintains residence in Boston. Ted also holds the title of Chair of the Linux International Technical Board.

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Amy Turner
Website Producer, and Senior Web Design Goddess

Amy has been designing web sites professionally since 1995 and using Linux since 1996. She came to VA Linux Systems from EDS's c2o organization where she created an automated web help-desk system that ran six EDS IT accounts and is still in use

today. She is still absolutely shocked that making web pages is something she gets paid for and not just another way to goof off on her computers. Amy lives in Mountain View with her husband, Michael, her cat, 3 snakes, 2 lizards, and a bunch of computers. She enjoys being the Web Design Officer for the [Silicon Valley Linux Users Group](#).



Uriah Welcome
Systems Engineer

Uriah has been using computers since 1992 and Linux since 1995. He came to VA Linux Systems from the frosty regions of Minnesota where he was a Linux/Unix Consultant. At VA Linux he is the Systems Engineer behind [SourceForge](#), an online Open Source Hosting System. He mostly works in PHP, Perl, and Shell Scripting on the backend of things.

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Alex T. Win

Alex T. Win manages the Storage System Software group at VA Linux Systems, where he also serves as co-maintainer of the SourceForge Storage Foundry (<http://storage.sourceforge.net>) and co-developer of Open NDMP. Alex was co-founder at NetAttach, Inc., which was acquired by VA Linux last year. Previously, Alex spent 10 years writing SCSI and RAID device drivers and heading various projects, including software RAID, multimedia tutorials, and Java-based storage management at UltraStor, BusLogic and Mylex. Alex graduated from UC Berkeley in 1985 with a BA in Mathematics.



Leonard N. Zubkoff
Chief Technology Officer

Zubkoff has been an active member of the Linux development community since 1994, and joined VA Linux Systems in July 1998 as Chief Technical Officer (CTO). Prior to joining VA Linux Systems, Zubkoff was principal member of the technical staff at Oracle Corporation where by day he built instruction level performance monitoring and analysis tools, and by night he was a Linux kernel developer. Zubkoff was principal scientist at Lucid where he designed and implemented the ports of Lucid Common Lisp to the Apollo PRISM and IBM POWER architectures.

He has authored numerous patches and bug fixes all over the kernel, wrote the driver for BusLogic SCSI host adapters, acted as maintainer of the SCSI subsystem for several years, contributed to the stability of the SMP implementation for 4 & 8 processor systems, and even wrote an ethernet driver in his spare time. He holds a Master of Science in Computer Science from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Physics from the University of Rochester. Zubkoff serves on the [Linux International](#) Technical Board.

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