

Joe C. D'Amato

US & Canadian Citizen

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Summary

Studio Technology, Production Services, Business Development, Vendor Partnerships

- Demonstrated success over 25 years, supporting VFX and Animation technology as both a manager and vendor
- Architected solutions for datacenters, storage, networking, rendering, and equipment co-location
- Directed large-scale system rollouts and upgrades to a widely varied user-base, focused on 24/7 uptime
- Managed projects for VFX and Animation pipeline development, both internally and with overseas studios
- Demonstrated analytical and communication skills, working well with executive staff and clients
- Educated and experienced in digital resource planning, team management, accounting, and budgeting

Employment History

CDW Canada StudioCloud – Full Stack Technology Sales & Rentals March 2018 - Present

Vancouver/Montreal/Los Angeles, Sr Solutions Architect for Media & Entertainment – VFX and Animation

- Collaborate on production services, solutions architecture, marketing, and business development
- Ensure security compliance with the Motion Picture Assoc. & Trusted Partner Network standards best practices
- Work with partners on strategic initiatives, combining multiple vendors for solutions and customer events
- Act as a conduit between StudioCloud operations, the architecture teams, service managers, and sales teams
- Consulting with Studios for render and disk/storage strategic assessments / solutions

JDamato Consulting – VFX and Animation

November 2017 – March 2018

Vancouver, General Partner/Owner

- Render and disk/storage strategic assessment and solutions
- Project Management - Render Farms, storage software, pipeline, systems, facility moves/buildouts
- Systems/IT - Procurement of desktop, network, and cloud services

Digital Domain – VFX Studio

March 2014 – November 2017

Vancouver/Los Angeles Ca, Technical Resource Manager - 24/7 Uptime

- Direct the day-to-day Linux render farm and disk space allocations, performance, and utilization
- Supervise a 18-person render and I/O support team in US and BC, managing all aspects of employment
- Manage projects, matrix-style for farm/disk pipeline projects, identifying milestones, targets, and assignments
- Collaborate with production and artistic senior managers to identify resource needs and technical hurdles
- Monitor farm, disk space, and license utilization, generating reports for executive planning

Image Engine VFX – VFX Studio

March 2013 - March 2014

Vancouver, Technical Assistant Supervisor - 24/7 Uptime

- Managed render and storage resources for the facility in a Linux shop & generating resource forecasts
- Hired and mentoring TA's as entry-level VFX professionals, maintain training docs, manage goal attainment
- Manage matrix-style projects for farm/disk pipeline projects, identifying milestones, targets, and assignments
- Monitor I/O activities and maintain compliance with media security best-practices, including encryption
- Tracked restore activity for data from backups and assisted with IT backup planning as needed

Digital Domain – Animation & VFX Studio

January 2012 – September 2012

Tradition Studios Florida, Production Services Supervisor - 24/7 Uptime/Support

- Supervised day-to-day Linux render farm and disk space allocation as well as a render support team
- Collaborated with production and artistic management to identify resource needs and technical hurdles
- Coordinated with the Venice and Vancouver teams to standardize on technology and reporting standards
- Monitored farm, disk space, and license utilization generating reports back to production and management
- Managed Systems Technology projects as needed

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Employment History Continued

The Walt Disney Studios– Feature Animation & Film Studios July 2008 – December 2011

Los Angeles, DisneyToon Studios: Production Technology Project Mgr October 2010 – December 2011

- Managed the execution of IT and Pipeline initiatives from strategy to daily task management
- Reported regularly all projects' status to Director of Production Technology and VP of Production
- Coordinated with partner studios in India, synchronizing technology changes and pipeline best practices
- Tier 1 & 2 tech support of the GDI digital asset mgmt system acting as main point of contact with vendor

Novato Ca, Imagemovers Digital: Digital Resource Supervisor - 24/7 Uptime July 2008 – October 2010

- Responsible for the utilization of a 12,000+ proc Linux render farm and 2 Petabytes of storage (2 million GB's)
- Built 24/7 uptime user-support - measuring throughput and disk usage - Supervised 13 Technical Assistants

The Orphanage, Inc. – Visual FX and Animation for Film December 2005 – July 2008

San Francisco Manager: Tech Support & Digital Resources - 24/7 Uptime

- Managed studio-wide IT projects and support, Supervised 5 Resource Admins, Render reports/forecasts
- Engineered and maintained Windows 2003 servers, Avaya IP Telephony System, AD, DNS, and DHCP

Who's Calling – Telecom, Marketing Tools & RespOrg August 2005 – December 2005

Seattle, Client Satisfaction: Tier 2 Technical Support – Web Services - Supported salespeople & clients

Lucasfilm Entertainment - Industrial Light + Magic May 1996 – September 2004

San Rafael Ca, Information Technology: Ergonomic Coordinator & Desktop Support March 2001 – Sept. 2004

San Rafael Ca, Information Technology: Inventory / Order Processor March 1999 – March 2001

San Rafael Ca, General Services: Mail Services Supervisor May 1996 – March 1999

Speaking Engagements, Podcasts, Society Memberships

- **Visual Effects Society:** Member in good standing (2020)
- **Intel Cloud Summit 2019, Phoenix, Az:** Invited to join a panel on our Optane memory use cases
- **Dell Tech Summit 2019, Austin, Tx:** Spoke to analysts and Dell managers on flexible consumption models
- **SIGGRAPH Birds of a Feather:** "Bridging the Gap" series, organized and led annual sessions since 2017
- **A Cup of Joe VFX & Animation:** YouTube channel started in 2020 with 600+ subscribers and growing

Education

- **Qube Render Manager 6.5 Systems Administrator Certification, Pipeline FX** (2014)
- **Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer, Windows Server 2003 & CompTia Security+** (2007)
- **Associates of Arts Degree in Business Administration** (Santa Rosa JC (2002)
- **Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration** (*Incomplete*, 35 units remaining)
- **UC Berkeley Extension Classes - Unix I & II** (2000)

Selected Film Credits – See IMDb "Joe C. D'Amato"

The Free State of Jones (2016) **Night at the Museum** (2015) - **Blackhat** (2015) - **Bloody Knuckles** (2014) - **Mars Needs Moms**, (2011) - **Disney's A Christmas Carol**, (2009) - **The Spirit**, (2008) - **Red Cliff**, (Chi Bi in China,) (2008) - **Ironman**, (2008) - **Don't Mess with the Zohan**, (2008) - **Grindhouse: Planet Terror**, (2007) - **Live Free or Die Hard**, (2007) , **The Host**, (Gwoemul in Korea), (2006)

See more at www.jdamato.com or [@CupOfJoeVFX](https://www.youtube.com/@CupOfJoeVFX) on YouTube