

Joe C. D'Amato

US Citizen / Canadian Permanent Resident

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Summary & Background

Manager of Studio Technology, Resources, & Production Support

Well-rounded set of management and problem-solving skills

- Demonstrated success over 20 years across 7 high-pressure film-production studios
- Educated and experienced in digital resource planning, team management, accounting, and budgeting
- Managed projects for VFX and Animation pipeline development both internally and with overseas studios
- Supervised day-to-day teams of Linux administrators, technicians, and engineers
- Directed large-scale system rollouts and upgrades to a widely varied user-base, focused on 24/7 uptime
- Developed analytical and communication skills – work well with executive staff and clients
- Certified as MS Systems Engineer in Windows 2003 & CompTia Security+, comfortable in Linux, varying degrees of experience with many areas of studio technology: storage, networking, rendering, co-location
- Committed to the belief that all systems can be improved

Employment History

JDamato Consulting – VFX/Animation/Media

November 2017 - Present

General Partner/Owner

- Render and disk/storage strategic assessment
- Project Management - Render Farms, storage software, pipeline, systems, facility moves/buildouts
- Systems/IT - Procurement of desktop, network, and cloud services
- Promotional Merchandise, Show crew gifts/swag, and Ebay auction consulting/planning

Digital Domain – VFX Studio

March 2014 – November 2017

US & Canadian Locations, Production Services Supervisor - 24/7 Uptime/Support

- 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, B.C., Technical Assistant Supervisor - 24/7 Uptime/Support

- 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

The Walt Disney Studios– Feature Animation & Film Studios

July 2008 – December 2011

DisneyToon Studios: Production Technology Project Manager

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

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Vancouver, B.C., Canada

The Walt Disney Studios *(continued)*

Imagemovers Digital: Digital Resource Supervisor - 24/7 Uptime/Support 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

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

- 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

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

Lucasfilm Entertainment - Industrial Light + Magic

May 1996 – September 2004

Information Technology: Ergonomic Coordinator & Desktop Support
September 2004

March 2001 –

Information Technology: Inventory / Order Processor

March 1999 – March 2001

General Services: Mail Services Supervisor

May 1996 –

March 1999

Business Administration Experience

Robust mix of business awareness acquired from university instruction and real-life experience

Project management - Digital asset management - Digital resource management - Customer service focus - International operations (India/Canada/USA)- Productive meeting leadership & coordination - Outsourcing - Scheduling 24/7 coverage - Internal-billing procedures - Budgets, metrics, & ratio-based analysis - Documentation & training - MS Office Suite incl. MS Visio, MS Project with a strong reliance on Excel for reporting.

Technical Experience

Operating Systems: Windows Server 2000 & 2003 (*Engineer*) - Windows 95/98/NT/2000/XP (*Administrator*) - Linux (*Administrator*) - Apple OS9/OSX *User* - Avaya / VOIP - (*Administrator*)

VFX/Animation Support: Render queuing systems: Rush, Qube, Backburner, DD's Race & Pixar's TINA - Conceptual understanding of Python, SVN, GIT -Third party and internal 2-D/3-D Applications - License Servers - Environmental variables issues - TD/Dev pipeline tech support - Storage / Disk Space strategies

System Tools: High Availability Disk Storage NetApp, Avere, Isilon - Altiris Deployment Solution / Norton Ghost - Network Administration - Ganglia/Splunk/Nagios System Monitoring - Avaya IP Phone Administration - Norton Anti-Virus/ Firewall - Active Directory / DHCP - Performance optimization - Domain controllers & Group Policy

Administrative Technology: JIRA - Bugzilla - Smart Sheets - Helpdesk-tracking software - Salesforce.com - MS Office, Excel, Project, Visio, Access - FileMaker Pro - Outlook, Exchange - Gmail productivity suite

Education and Certifications

- **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)

Film Credits

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)

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