

Joe C. D'Amato

US Citizen / Canadian Permanent Resident

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Summary & Background

Production Services, Business Development and Solutions for M&E (VFX & Animation)

Specialize in render farms, hyperscale storage, archiving, on-prem data centers, and private-cloud

- Experienced in the VFX and Animation industry for 20+ years with 15 years in management
- Provided digital resource planning, forecasting, and capex vs. opex analysis for studio decision makers
- Collaborated with business development counterparts, specializing in analytics and production workflow
- Documented and designed processes, training programs, benchmarking, and time-interval data visualizations
- 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 hyperscale system rollouts and upgrades to a widely varied user-base, focused on 24/7 uptime
- Active in SIGGRAPH, hosting an annual "Bridging the Gap" talk about Production and Technology collaboration

Employment History

Scalar, A CDW Company – Technology Integrator, M&E March 2018 – Present

StudioCloud Production Services – Business Development and Architecture

- Analyze and report on industry trends, production needs, new service offerings, and market opportunities
- Meet with clients and partners to grow existing relationships and build new opportunities in North America
- Document M&E Statements of Work, Master Service Agreements, Bills of Materials, and verify compliance
- Mentor new Solutions Architects and Account Executives in regards to Media & Entertainment
- Work with partners like Dell and Intel designing new SKUs, launch strategies, and promotional events
- Act as a full-service point of contact for clients for technical or administrative issues with concierge-style support

JDamato Consulting – VFX/Animation/Media November 2017 – March 2018

General Partner/Owner

- Render Farms, storage software, pipeline, systems, facility moves/buildouts,
- Procurement of desktop, network, and cloud services

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
- Monitor I/O activities and maintain compliance with media security best-practices, including encryption

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

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Vancouver, B.C., Canada

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

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 **March 2001 – September 2004**
Information Technology: Inventory / Order Processor **March 1999 – March 2001**
General Services: Mail Services Supervisor **May 1996 – March 1999**

Studio 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

- Qumulo Presales Engineer Certified (2018)
- Arista Presales Engineer Certified (2018)
- Ruckus Wired Presales Engineer Certified (2018)
- Multiple Quantum Certifications (2018)
- 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)

Read my articles based on our SIGGRAPH talks at www.linkedin.com/in/joedamato/
Learn more about me at www.jdamato.com