

Aaron W Colichia

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Senior SDET / QA Automation & DevOps Engineer

Summary

Senior SDET / QA Automation & DevOps Engineer with 20+ years designing Python-based test automation, building CI/CD pipelines, and validating complex storage, RAID, and cloud infrastructure products. Deep expertise in Linux, Jenkins, Selenium, and Playwright, with a track record of reducing integration failures, deployment times, and manual testing effort. Experienced mentoring engineers and owning test strategy for critical features in Agile/Scrum environments.

Skills

Testing & Quality Engineering: SDET, QA Automation, Test Strategy, Regression & Integration Testing, API/CLI Testing, Performance/Load Testing, System Migrations, Agile / Scrum

Automation & Frameworks: Python, Bash, PowerShell, JavaScript, Java, Perl, Selenium WebDriver, Playwright, PyUnit, Autohotkey

DevOps, CI/CD & Platforms: CI/CD Pipelines, Jenkins, Git, Docker, Packer, Vagrant, Linux (Red Hat, Ubuntu, Suse, CentOS, Fedora), AWS (EC2), VMware / vSphere, Nginx, Apache, DNS, DHCP

Databases & Data: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, Oracle

Tools & ALM: JIRA, IBM Rational, Bugzilla

Soft Skills: Technical Leadership, Mentoring, Cross-functional Collaboration, Communication, Problem Solving, Time Management

Professional Experience

Dell Technologies, Round Rock, TX

Senior Software Test Engineer (Senior SDET / QA Automation Engineer) | Hybrid

October 2018 – April 2024

- Served as subject matter expert for iDRAC storage features (PERC, SEKM, NVMe, SWRAID) and led design and execution of automated Python-based CLI and API tests, reducing integration failures by over 30%.
- Developed and maintained automation for iDRAC storage solution test processes, including external customer-facing SEKM scripting, improving testing efficiency and reliability by 15% and aligning coverage with field usage.
- Refactored key portions of the shared Python test library to align with the intended automation framework design, significantly reducing flaky tests and false positives across storage regression suites.

IBM, Austin, TX

Staff Software Engineer (Senior CI/CD Systems Engineer / DevOps / Build & Release Engineer) | Remote

March 2013 – April 2018

- Built and maintained Jenkins-based CI/CD pipelines (Git, Docker, Packer, Vagrant) as a Staff Software Engineer / DevOps engineer, reducing deployment times by 25% and enhancing scalability of cloud solutions.
- Automated deployment of the solution stack to AWS (EC2) and IBM SoftLayer, extending support beyond VMware-based deployments and simplifying multi-environment rollouts.
- Designed turnkey multi-node Elasticsearch storage clusters as a replacement backend for legacy PostgreSQL, using Docker, Python, and Bash to automate secure, TLS-enabled deployments.

StoredIQ, Austin, TX

QA/Automation Engineer (SDET / Test Automation & Build & Release Engineer)

August 2008 – March 2013

- Managed and executed comprehensive manual and automated test plans as QA Automation Engineer / SDET for enterprise information-governance products, improving product quality and customer satisfaction by 20%.
- Owned and enhanced the Python/Selenium automation framework, including SharePoint-specific test sites and regression suites, increasing automated coverage by 40% across regression and integration.
- Stepped up as Build & Release engineer, maintaining build scripts, CI server, and source repositories; migrated all code from SVN to Git/GitHub and led multi-distro migrations of the product stack from CentOS to RHEL and Ubuntu in preparation for IBM acquisition and GPL remediation.

Education & Certifications

Lamar University, Port Arthur, TX

Associate of Applied Science, Computer and Information Systems Security, 2000

Certifications

- AWS Certified Developer – Associate (2016)
- Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE) (2003–2005)
- CompTIA A+ Certified (2015)