

Telecommunications Systems Management Alumni Spotlight

Name: Ben Hocker

MSU Degree: B.S. Telecommunications Systems Management

Home Town: Arlington, KY

Current Town: Nashville, TN

Current Job: Maintain RedHat, AIX, and VMware environments



Current Job Description:
Maintain RedHat, AIX, and VMware environments

Previous Jobs held (since graduation):

- SQL Server Administrator
- Middleware Administrator



TSM Q & A:

1. What did you do for your internship and how did it benefit you?

I worked at the Murray State Cyber Cave. We would lead day and week long “camps” to educate students and showcase technologies in the TSM program. The Cyber Cave allowed me to experiment with many technologies to introduce new content for the students. My greatest benefit from the internship was enhancing presentation skills and engaging with the audience. As you can imagine, many high school students lose focus quickly and we were constantly challenged with keeping their attention

2. Since graduation, what is the most exciting thing you have been able to experience in your work?

The satisfaction of completing complicated problems in a complex environment is very fulfilling. Each day is different and poses interesting new problems.



3. What class(es) were the most beneficial to your career so far?

The most beneficial classes were the ones that taught me to troubleshoot. The system administration and security courses would pose a problem set and allow you the freedom to find the solution in your own way. This was invaluable to prepare me for projects and assignments I face at work. Compared to other colleagues, I feel those with the TSM degree are better prepared to troubleshoot in a scientific manner, which sets us apart.

4. What activities outside your classwork were most valuable to your career?

The ATSM was an important part of my college experience. I was able to have fun with like-minded “nerds”. We attended conferences together and enjoyed LAN parties on Friday nights. I still get to see and work with many of the friends I made in college. I highly recommend joining ATSM.

5. What is one piece of advice that you would give to current or future TSM students?

Use the business classes to your advantage. There are few degrees that have a strong technical curriculum combined with diverse business courses. Although business classes were not always the most interesting, I gained important knowledge that created a more well-rounded perspective.

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