

# NEIL HANLON

Senior Network / Infrastructure / Systems Engineer

## Contact

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Massachusetts

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Open source infrastructure engineer with a background in networking, systems, and automation. I build and operate reliable platforms, contribute upstream, and help communities grow.

## Experience

### Open Source

- Rocky Linux Infra Lead
- Fedora/EPEL Contributor
- Community Governance
- Upstream-first Development
- Release Engineering
- OpenELA TSC

2020–

#### Director, Infrastructure

Remote (Volunteer)

*Rocky Enterprise Software Foundation (RESF) – Rocky Linux*

- Co-found and lead infrastructure for the open source rebuild of CentOS Linux (Rocky Linux), coordinating a global team of more than thirty volunteers.
- Design and operate hybrid infrastructure spanning public cloud and physical data centers to support global mirror distribution, CI/CD pipelines, and release engineering workflows.
- Build and maintain scalable public-facing services, including Koji builders, HTTP/RSYNC pools, mirrorlist, and signing infrastructure — supporting **3 billion+ requests/month** and **1+ PB/month** of traffic.
- Develop and maintain **Peridot**, the open source build system powering Rocky Linux and CIQ's RHEL-derivative product lifecycle, supporting scalable, reproducible, and secure builds.
- Build and maintain a cryptographic enclave for UEFI Secure Boot signing, enabling trusted boot for Rocky Linux and downstream derivatives.
- Architect secure-by-default systems and enforce best practices in CI/CD, credential management, artifact signing, and endpoint access control.
- Lead incident response and coordinate recovery efforts for critical infrastructure outages across multiple time zones and providers.
- Manage infrastructure sponsorships and partner relationships to ensure long-term project sustainability and cost-effective operations.
- CIQ sponsored aspects of this work during my employment, complementing my independent leadership within RESF.

### Systems Engineering

- Secure Infra Architecture
- CDN + Edge Services
- Cloud Platforms:  
AWS, Azure, GCP, Others
- Infrastructure-as-Code
- Containers / OCI / K8s

### Networking

- BGP, OSPF, Juniper
- Linux Routing / Firewalling
- Cisco ASA / R+S
- Arista EOS, Mikrotik
- IPv6 Transition
- SD-WAN
- Load Balancing / ADC

### Programming

- Python, Bash, Golang
- Ansible, Puppet, Terraform
- Pulumi, Lua, Ruby, PHP

2020–

#### Founding Board Member

Remote (Volunteer)

*Rocky Enterprise Software Foundation (RESF)*

- Establish the RESF to support community-driven governance, infrastructure, and lifecycle planning for Rocky Linux and other open source projects.
- Represent technical community perspectives on the RESF Advisory Board and help shape project direction and policy.
- Advise on growth, sustainability, and alignment between corporate partners and community goals.

### Tooling

- Git / GitOps, CI/CD
- Prometheus, Grafana
- rpm / mock / koji
- GNU/Linux

2020–

#### Contributor and Packager

Remote (Volunteer)

*The Fedora Project (fedoraproject.org)*

- Maintain and test packages in EPEL and Fedora branches.
- Contributed to the Fedora RISC-V SIG, supporting alt-arch enablement and early ecosystem work.
- Participated in Fedora CommOps, helping shape community engagement strategies and project visibility.
- Advocate for upstream-first workflows and maintain contributor-friendly build/test automation.

2021–2025	<b>Senior Infrastructure Engineer</b> <i>Ctrl IQ (CIQ)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performed formally-sponsored contributions to Rocky Linux and RESF infrastructure, acting as a bridge between company goals and upstream project sustainability.</li> <li>Led cross-functional efforts to scale CIQ's build and release infrastructure for RHEL-derivative products based on Rocky.</li> <li>Designed and maintained hybrid CI/CD pipelines for open and closed-source systems, integrating GitLab, Koji, and internal build/test runners.</li> <li>Championed upstream-first development practices, ensuring CIQ's internal engineering work could be contributed back cleanly to RESF when appropriate.</li> <li>Provided technical leadership and emergency response across CIQ's internal infrastructure stack from networking to packaging to on-call rotation.</li> <li>Advised CIQ leadership on open source community dynamics, trust-building, and governance best practices.</li> </ul>	Remote
2018–2021	<b>Senior Network Engineer</b> <i>KAYAK Software Corporation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Managed production and corporate networks across two data centers and 14+ global offices.</li> <li>Re-architected core switching to a modern spine/leaf fabric using BigSwitch Cloud Fabric (OpenDaylight).</li> <li>Replaced aging Juniper gear and unstable edge routers; improved interconnects with private links and Boston POP for AWS Direct Connect.</li> <li>Designed and implemented a PII "bubble" to segment sensitive workloads from general production traffic.</li> <li>Partnered with Security to patch, audit, and harden critical infrastructure.</li> <li>Built internal tools for tracking maintenances, scheduling downtime, and alerting conflicts.</li> <li>Maintained RADIUS and SAML-based MFA proxies for secure access to network gear.</li> <li>Owned vendor relationships and procurement lifecycle for networking hardware.</li> <li>Documented network architecture and procedures for cross-team enablement.</li> <li>Served as escalation point for network incidents and cross-functional troubleshooting.</li> </ul>	Concord, MA
2015–2018	<b>DevOps Engineer</b> <i>KAYAK Software Corporation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Led CDN modernization using Fastly + Varnish; built traffic shaping and A/B testing config.</li> <li>Migrated legacy configs to CI/CD pipeline with staging and prod workflows.</li> <li>Owned alerting/on-call infrastructure; migrated incident workflows from PagerDuty to OpsGenie.</li> <li>Introduced Apache Airflow for analytics engineering, improving billing/reporting pipelines.</li> <li>Prototyped VM provisioning library w/ XenServer XAPI + Kickstart; delivered internal UI.</li> <li>Collaborated with architecture teams to diagnose and resolve OS/hypervisor resource constraints.</li> </ul>	Concord, MA

## Education

2013–2017	<b>B.S. in Computer Science</b> <b>Minor in Computer Networking</b> <i>Wentworth Institute of Technology</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coursework included algorithms, compiler design, networking, security, software architecture, and systems programming.</li> </ul>	Boston, MA
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