Brandon L. Hamm

Linux Systems Administration | Des Moines, Iowa · Open to relocation and remote work
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Technical Projects

Linux Home Server
Homelab, Ubuntu Server Jan 2026 – Present

- Turned a retired laptop into an Ubuntu home server that runs 20 self-hosted services in Docker, blocks ads and trackers for the whole network, and accepts remote connections only through a Tailscale private VPN.
- Set up Caddy to serve every hosted service over HTTPS, with security certificates that renew on their own.
- Designed a 3-2-1 backup system that keeps an encrypted copy in the cloud, with safeguards that stop a disconnected drive from wiping its cloud backup.
- Secured the server with key-only SSH logins, a deny-by-default UFW firewall, and Fail2Ban to ban repeated failed logins; encrypted all three external drives.
- Scheduled nightly ClamAV malware scans across the server's storage and reworked their alerts so routine warnings stopped triggering false failure alarms.
- Recovered from an accidental file deletion during a live cloud backup by stopping the backup before it copied the deletion, confirming the cloud copy was intact, and restoring all 17 files.
- Diagnosed a server that would no longer boot: ruled out four hardware and firmware causes, then traced the fault to a missing line in the disk-encryption configuration and restored it.
- Maintains automatic, hands-off backups of a family member's Mac, with deleted files recoverable for 30 days.

Fedora Workstation & Virtualization Lab
Homelab, Fedora Mar 2026 – Present

- Runs Fedora Linux daily with SELinux security enforcement on; fixed a background service SELinux blocked by moving its program to an approved location.
- Built a KVM virtual machine lab that includes a Red Hat Enterprise Linux 10 server set up for RHCSA certification practice.
- Restored internet access for the lab's virtual machines by tracing blocked traffic through three overlapping firewall layers and fixing the two that dropped it.
- Runs AI language models locally on the laptop's built-in graphics chip with llama.cpp, sized to fit its 24 GB of available memory.
- Stopped recurring system freezes on an AMD laptop by testing kernel settings until finding the one that fixes them.

Portfolio Site
brandonlhamm.com, Astro Nov 2026

- Built and secured brandonlhamm.com with strict browser security headers, dependencies cut from 21 known vulnerabilities to 0, and email records that block spoofed mail in the domain's name.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Information Technology
Arizona State University Expected Mar 2027

- **Concentration:** Cybersecurity & Networking
- **Minor:** Personal Health
- **GPA:** 3.62, Dean's List
- **Study Abroad**
  - *Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering Summer in Dublin, Ireland (Summer 2025)*
  - *Mindfulness and Culture Abroad in Phuket, Thailand (Fall 2025)*
- Accepted into the 4+1 M.S. in Information Technology, starting fall 2027, part-time.

Professional Experience

Level 1 Help Desk Technician (Contract), Des Moines, Iowa
Robert Half at Primary Health Care Sep 2024 – Jan 2025

- Audited Google Workspace licensing and removed 200+ unused licenses, saving the client thousands in recurring costs; finished the two-week project in one day.
- Applied Windows upgrades and security patches across multiple endpoints.
- Resolved critical Windows OS failures without losing user data.
- Restored staff productivity during a statewide healthcare system outage with front-line support and temporary workarounds.
- Installed wall-mounted clinical workstations in exam rooms with clean cable management.

Computer Repair Technician, West Des Moines, Iowa
Schrock Innovations Oct 2022 – Apr 2023

- Served as acting lead technician during manager absences, independently handling intake, diagnostics, repairs, and point-of-sale.
- Exceeded monthly sales targets four months in a row and helped raise the shop's Google rating to 4.8.
- Introduced Linux tools (shred, dd, Autopsy) for multi-drive wiping, data recovery, and cloning in a Windows-based shop.
- Performed component-level repairs, storage upgrades, OS installs, and malware removal on laptops and desktops.

Personal Training Intern, Des Moines, Iowa
NASM Gymternship Oct 2021 – Nov 2021

- Trained clients from a variety of backgrounds online and in person, customizing exercise programs to their individual goals and needs.
- Explained health, exercise, and nutrition science to clients.
- Negotiated equipment purchases on behalf of the facility.

Skills

- **Linux:** Ubuntu Server, Fedora, systemd, Bash scripting
- **Security:** SSH hardening, UFW and firewalld firewalls, Fail2Ban, LUKS disk encryption
- **Infrastructure:** Docker, KVM virtual machines, Tailscale VPN, encrypted backups with Rclone and Syncthing
- **Support:** Windows troubleshooting, hardware repair, Google Workspace administration