

# MICHAEL GRUIJTERS

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## SUMMARY

Senior DevOps / Unix Engineer with 25+ years of experience designing, automating, and securing Linux and OpenBSD infrastructure in mission-critical environments. Specialized in secure platform engineering, CI/CD, Infrastructure as Code (IaC), and reliability-focused systems design. Founder of Pantzr, a Zero Trust hosting platform. Experienced in high-security and air-gapped enterprise environments, with strong expertise in Ansible, GitHub workflows, security hardening, and operational reliability.

## EXPERIENCE

### Owner

July 2021 - Present

- **INITSix - Freelance DevOps / Unix Engineer (Owner)** | The Netherlands
  - Created a complete Ansible role for CIS Benchmark hardening of Debian 13 for an enterprise client.
  - Built a standalone Debian-based replacement for a legacy Windows 7 application controlling generator systems on offshore light islands (Port of Rotterdam), including packaging and full Ansible-based zero-touch deployment automation.
  - Demonstrated strong independent capabilities by designing and maintaining secure infrastructure solutions within the OpenBSD ecosystem, requiring extensive self-research, problem-solving, and low-level systems expertise in a niche environment.
  - Developing Pantzr, a security-focused OpenBSD hosting platform focused on resilient and privacy-oriented infrastructure.

### Cyber Security Engineer

May 2024 - January 2025

- **KPN (via Sue Cloud Native Solutions) — Cyber Security Engineer** | The Netherlands
  - Deployed as a contractor via KPN within a high-security, air-gapped defence and intelligence environment requiring MIVD VGB-A clearance.
  - Operated in highly controlled and regulated environments with strict confidentiality, compliance, and change management procedures.
  - Contributed to infrastructure hardening initiatives and improvements to the overall security posture and security baseline across Linux-based platforms.
  - Operated within security frameworks, compliance frameworks, and security standards in mission-critical and security-sensitive infrastructure environments.
  - Supported operational resilience and platform stability through security-focused systems administration and resilience practices.
  - Assisted in automation and operational tasks while adhering to strict segmentation, compliance, and enterprise security policies.

### Linux Specialist

February 2022 - April 2024

- **Vanderlande (via Sue Cloud Native Solutions) — Linux Specialist** | The Netherlands
  - Designed, built, and maintained Linux server infrastructure supporting large-scale platforms for global airport baggage handling systems operating in 24/7 mission-critical environments.
  - Served as the final technical escalation point for third-line support, contributing to system stability within complex airport infrastructure operations.
  - Conducted reverse engineering of a legacy Debian 8 + .NET platform for potential reuse by Amazon, delivering infrastructure analysis and technical documentation supporting modernization toward Debian 12.
  - Supported cross-team collaboration across 4 departments and 3 time zones during a mission-critical escalation affecting airport operations in Asia, helping maintain operational continuity and system stability.
  - Performed Bare-metal SLES installations on enterprise infrastructure within large-scale automated logistics and airport infrastructure environments.
  - Contributed to automation efficiency through Linux systems administration, infrastructure standardization, and operational support within mission-critical logistics platforms.

### IT Process Controller / Technical Support Engineer

November 2012 - August 2014

- **ASML - IT Process Controller / Technical Support Engineer** | Veldhoven, The Netherlands
  - Optimized IT operational processes with strong focus on incident reduction and reducing Root Cause Analysis (RCA) turnaround times.
  - Supported the successful transition of ServiceNow operations to an external service provider in India while maintaining operational continuity and service quality.

- Gained in-depth understanding of ASML ITIL processes, change management procedures, and enterprise service delivery models.

## EDUCATION

### HBO

- Secure infrastructure design
- Cloud & automation platforms
- Enterprise IT service management (ITIL / Lean / Six Sigma / PRINCE2).

## CERTIFICATIONS

### Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHEL 9)

2023

### HashiCorp Terraform Associate

2023

### Cloudflare Zero Trust & Application Security

2026

## SKILLS

### Cloud:

AWS, Azure, Kubernetes, Podman, hybrid cloud infrastructure, container platforms

### Automation:

Ansible, Bash scripting, Infrastructure as Code (IaC), configuration management, deployment automation

### DevOps:

CI/CD, GitOps, blue/green deployments, canary releases, immutable infrastructure

### Operating Systems:

Red Hat Enterprise Linux, SUSE Linux Enterprise Server (SLES), Debian, Ubuntu, OpenBSD, FreeBSD, Slackware, Unix systems administration, performance tuning

### Networking:

Routing, switching, IPv4/IPv6, VLANs, network segmentation, firewall design, DNS, NFS, SMB/CIFS

### Security:

CIS hardening, SELinux, OpenBSD PF, relayd, OpenSMTPD, SPF, DMARC, DKIM, DANE, DNSSEC, Lynis, Zero Trust architecture, system hardening, secure-by-design infrastructure, privilege separation, attack surface reduction, air-gapped environments

### Observability:

CheckMK, Monit, monitoring, alerting, log analysis, uptime engineering, incident detection & response

### Storage:

Ceph, EMC, NetApp, backup & recovery, storage performance tuning

### Virtualization:

Proxmox, VMware, virtual infrastructure, workload isolation

### Infrastructure Services:

Apache, NGINX, OpenBSD HTTPD, NSD, Unbound, relayd, OpenSMTPD, MySQL

### Delivery & Operations:

ITIL, Lean, Lean Six Sigma, PRINCE2, Agile (Scrum/Kanban), ServiceNow, incident management, continuous improvement