Peter Molina

Calabasas, CA 91301 • (818) 584-2812 • petermolina@gmail.com • linkedin.com/in/petermolina
Top Secret/SCI with FS Polygraph

With over 20 years of experience in Information Technology, I've built a career that bridges strategic leadership and hands-on technical expertise. From architecting secure, privacy-focused applications to guiding teams through complex organizational change, I've consistently remained close to the technology—because that's where my passion lies. Whether leading cloud-native transformations, debugging edge infrastructure, or mentoring engineers, I bring a unique blend of vision, precision, and curiosity that drives innovation and trust across every layer of the stack.

Experience

HRL Laboratories, LLC | Malibu, California
Director of Information Systems | January 2017 – Present

- Manage an annual budget exceeding $30 million by implementing strategic resource allocation and rigorous financial oversight, with recent cost cutting measures to reduce budgets by over 15%.
- Expanded the Information Systems team from a 12-member Help Desk and Administration team to a department of 60 professionals across IT operations, Cybersecurity & Compliance, Enterprise Architecture, IT Asset Management, and IT Project Management groups, to develop and execute strategic initiatives that ensured secure, scalable, and compliant technology environments for mission-critical defense operations.
- Maintained an attrition rate under 5% across the Information Systems team during its expansion, outperforming industry averages for IT roles (typically 10–15%), while scaling headcount to support organizational growth.
- Redesigned the technology infrastructure after assuming leadership of the IT organization, introducing new capabilities and services that transformed a basic help desk and server administration team into a full service-delivery organization, partnering with the business to enable achievement of strategic objectives.
- Manage an ERP team responsible for a complex environment across multiple networks utilizing Deltek Costpoint and IBM Cognos/TM1 for financial and operational reporting.
- Lead IT operations across the Los Angeles area and distributed partner locations across the United States, overseeing systems (Active Directory, virtualization, cloud infrastructures, HPC) across various networks from enterprise to classified.
- Lead the implementation of ServiceNow to act as the primary ITSM platform for the organization. Additional modules implemented include Change, Space, Facilities, and Incident Response Management.

- Manage relationships with various service providers to ensure appropriate support including the procurement of equipment, specialized consultant and implementation services, and contract staff augmentation.
- One of the first 50 defense contractors to achieve CMMC 2.0 Level 2 certification, earning a perfect score of 110/110 on the NIST 800-171 v2 assessment.
- Led a comprehensive overhaul of IT departmental policies, collaborating across Security, Trade, HR, and other relevant business teams to modernize documentation to meet necessary security, operations, and compliance requirements.
- Led the design and deployment and serve as a hands-on administrator of advanced security systems—including endpoint protection, intrusion detection, and compliance platforms.
- Administer on-premises Windows environment including Active Directory, DNS, and DHCP servers across multiple sites, as well as hosted Microsoft 365 (GCC-High) services including Azure AD, Exchange, Teams, SharePoint, Defender, and Purview.

HRL Laboratories, LLC | Malibu, California
Systems Engineer | August 2015 – January 2017

- Administer a Windows domain environment, including Active Directory, DHCP, DNS, Group Policy, and Exchange, ensuring security and performance across over 1200 endpoints.
- Leveraged PowerShell automation to streamline routine tasks such as user provisioning, system management, and performance monitoring, reducing manual workload and enhancing overall operational efficiency.
- Enhanced system security and compliance by implementing regular patch management, vulnerability assessments, and system audits across Windows, storage, and virtualized platforms.
- Completed a series of HRL-sponsored leadership seminars and trainings, developing advanced strategic, operational, and team management skills that positioned me for future leadership roles.

AeroVironment, Inc | Simi Valley, California
Sr. Systems Engineer | August 2011 – August 2015

- Assisted in the design and implementation of a new Dell Compellent storage solution to support mission-critical applications and ensure data integrity.
- Developed and executed comprehensive backup and disaster recovery strategies to safeguard business continuity using Commvault as the primary backup platform and Iron Mountain as the offsite data-protection solution.
- Optimized VMware virtualization with fine-tuned VMware clusters supporting 200+ virtual machines, ensuring balanced resource allocation and high availability across multiple sites.

Cal Net Technology | Northridge, California
Systems Engineer | August 2010 - August 2011

- Managed comprehensive IT environments for over 10 small business clients by implementing remote monitoring and proactive maintenance strategies, consistently achieving 99.9% system uptime.
- Delivered various technical solutions such as Windows OS refreshes, telephone system implementations, and implementation of switches and firewalls.
- Administered Windows Server infrastructures and Active Directory to ensure secure user access, efficient network performance, and compliance with best practices.
- Delivered responsive technical support and strategic IT consulting, resolving service tickets within SLA targets and boosting client satisfaction and retention.
- Enhanced IT security protocols through timely patch management, antivirus deployments, and firewall configurations, significantly mitigating cybersecurity risks across client networks.

Kornerstone Technology | Chatsworth, California
Systems Engineer | January 2010 - August 2010

- Orchestrated the relocation of a small business data center, ensuring zero disruption to business operations.
- Designed, implemented, and maintained information systems and networks driving operational efficiency and growth for small businesses of various types, including medical offices and payment processors.
- Analyzed system requirements and developed innovative solutions to ensure optimal performance and reliability across virtualization, storage, and Windows environments.

Education

New York University – Chief Information Officer (CIO) Program Certificate (2023-2024)
New York University – Threat Intel and Cybersecurity Analytics Certificate (2024)
New York University – Enterprise Architecture Certificate (2024)

Pepperdine University – M.B.A., Global Business (2009-2011)

DeVry University – B.S., Computer Engineering (2002-2006)

Skills

Leadership | Technology Strategy | Digital Transformation | Budgetary Planning
Information Security | Team Building | Microsoft Environments | Microsoft 365 (GCC-High)
Vendor Management | Project Management | Systems Engineering | CrowdStrike | Duo
NIST, CMMC Compliance | Dell and HP Servers and Storage | Fireeye/Trellix | ServiceNow
Incident Response | DTEX | Data Loss Prevention (DLP) | DoD | Threat Intelligence