

# Richard Emile Sarkis

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## Summary

An innovative software development and IT professional with 20 years experience in the design and development of scientific software and implementation of multi-component systems to automate complex network and system management issues. Experienced in a number of programming languages and paradigms, focusing on simple and efficient problem solving. Strong willingness to learn new technologies, programming languages, and techniques in a desire for continued self-betterment.

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## Education

**Master of Science, Computer Science** — Rochester Institute of Technology — Dec 2013

**Bachelor of Science, Computer Science** — University of Rochester — May 2005

**Bachelor of Science, Physics and Astronomy** — University of Rochester — May 2000

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## Skills

AWK, Apache, Apple Cocoa, Apple OS X, Apple iOS, C, Code Analysis, Ethernet, Exploit Research, Firewalls, Flask (Python), FreeBSD, gdb, Git, Haskell, IP v4/v6, ISC BIND/DHCP, Intrusion Analysis, JSON, JavaScript, LaTeX, Linux, make, Markup (HTML, XML, CSS, reStructuredText, Markdown), Objective-C, OpenLDAP, PHP, POSIX, Perl, Postfix, Python, sed, shell (sh, bash, csh) Swift, TCP, Twisted (Python), WebSocket, WebAssembly, Microsoft Windows, Xcode

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**Adjunct Professor** — 3 years (Jan 2015-Present) — University of Rochester — Rochester, NY

Fulfilled adjunct professorial duties to the Computer Science department by teaching undergraduate students on the topic of introductory programming and computer science using the Python programming language (CSC 161) and data structures and algorithms (CSC 162).

- Instructed over 150 students multiple times a year through weekly lectures, exams, quizzes and personal instruction.
- Managed teaching assistants on grading and student interaction, as well as direction of their other job responsibilities.
- Provided management to student workshop leaders in their pedagogical duties when running weekly workshop sessions. Oversaw workshop leaders on grading and their other workshop duties.

**Senior Programmer/Analyst** — 9 years (May 2009-Present) — University of Rochester — Rochester, NY

Supported the department of Physics & Astronomy consisting of 250 people, including 75 faculty and researchers and 100+ graduate students. Installed, configured and maintained a server infrastructure that provided network services supporting the department. Configured, diagnosed and repaired Mac, Windows, and Linux systems. Trained faculty, staff, and students one-on-one and in groups on topics such as Linux, programming, software design, or general application usage.

- Developed system management tools using Python, C, and PHP.
- Managed student employees in day-to-day operations.
- Migrated 24 bare metal Linux servers to a high availability virtualization architecture using Linux KVM, Heartbeat, and Docker.
- Architected an innovative Linux netbooting system (*unionroot*) for instantly deploying PC Workstations with Ubuntu Linux.
  - Seamless live updates to a heterogeneous mix of netbooted PCs of varying configurations.
  - Coherent, consistent end user experience on every workstation through a standardized environment.
  - An extensible environment allowing for regular, methodical enhancement of core features.
  - Reduced security management time using simplified security auditing capabilities of union filesystems.
  - Focused project simplicity of design and use.
- Spearheaded the implementation of an enhanced multilayer security framework and policy that provided authorized and secure access to departmental computer resources.
  - Regularly audited system security and analyzed compromised hosts.
  - Trained users on safe internet practices and how to secure workstations and servers.
  - Implemented ITAR compliant data storage and access.

**Senior Programmer/Analyst** — 10 years (May 2000-Jul 2009) — University of Rochester — Rochester, NY

Supported an Astronomy research group consisting of faculty researchers and graduate students with specialized software development abilities in near infrared detector research. Additionally, performed in a sysadmin role by providing desktop, server, and data management for the research group.

- Administered specialized research systems based on FORTH, C, and Python.
  - Developed specialized project software and integrated it with Linux.
  - Documented and managed source code for research projects.

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- Coded an astronomical image viewer and data analysis tool, MacDV, for the Apple OS X platform.
- Interconnected a heterogeneous network of workstations and servers using LDAP, NFS, DHCP under Red Hat and Gentoo Linux to maintain a consistent user experience and minimize administrative issues.

**Lead Programmer** — 2 years (Dec 2005-Jul 2007) — Fermilab — Chicago, IL

Engineered and implemented a scalable, highly parallel, high-throughput particle physics event data logger that significantly improved data acquisition from the CDF detector during its Run II phase.

- Achieved 125% of target throughput enabling 100 MB/s write speeds in the event logging pipeline.
- Guided a remote development team in defining the testing methodology and upgrade path for software implementation
- Surpassed original project performance goals and set a software architectural example for similar project at CERN.

**Co-Founder** — 4 years (Dec 2003-Mar 2007) — If Then — Rochester, NY

Conceptualized and prototyped an early implementation of a wi-fi captive portal hotspot called "Abydos". Lead a team in the creation of a wireless captive-portal device based on this prototype using C, Python and FreeBSD.

- Decided to use a low-cost, low-power single-board computer, running an embedded FreeBSD installation.
- Unique feature-set included timed access, and enforced captivity of unauthorized users.
- Developed a ground-up implementation of a Python-based *ipfw* firewall module for manipulating firewall rules programmatically.
- Managed web, mail and shell hosting services on FreeBSD servers.
- Oversaw developers and consultants involved with the product design and deployment.

**System Administrator** — 5 years (Jun 1995-May 2000) — MLS Online — Rochester, NY

Innovated the running of a groupware software product as use as a subscription-based bulletin board system. Drove user growth at technology conventions, and managed the community of users.

- Automated tedious and complex server functions through AppleScript and Perl.
- Managed 2,000 users of FirstClass Intranet Server groupware.
- Implemented network services used in support of the groupware server.
- Documented procedures; Tier 1-3 support via phone and online.
- Managed an information booth at several local business and computing conventions.

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## Projects

Project Name	Description	Languages Used	Date
<a href="#">virtualboxx</a>	Apple macOS installer DMG on VirtualBox	Shell	2016
<a href="#">coursetools</a>	Web-scraping CLI tools for course management	Python	2015
<a href="#">ssh-fob</a>	Secured ssh-agent on untrusted computers	Shell	2013
<a href="#">flask-boilerplate</a>	Responsive-HTML based skeleton Flask app	Python, HTML, CSS	2013
<a href="#">Vernacular</a>	Prototype system for native/web app develop	Objective-C, Python	2013
<a href="#">RSWebSocket</a>	Websocket protocol client framework	Objective-C, Python	2013
<a href="#">RSWebSocketApplication</a>	Websocket app messaging protocol framework	Objective-C, Python	2013
<a href="#">MacDV</a>	Data visualization software for Astronomers	Objective-C, Python	2008
<a href="#">Consumer/Server Logger</a>	Data logger for CDF project at Fermilab	C, C++, TCL, Shell	2006
<a href="#">Abydos</a>	Captive portal for Wi-Fi management	C, Python	2003

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## Publications

Title	Publication	Date
<a href="#">Proposed Nomenclature for Surface Features on Pluto</a>	SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System	2015
Contributing Columnist	Computer Link Magazine	2007
<a href="#">Upgrade of the CDF Run II Data Logger</a>	IEEE NPSS Real Time Conference	2007
<a href="#">InterWeave: Transparent Data Sharing for Parallel and Distributed Systems</a>	LLE Review August 2004	2004
<a href="#">MHD Evolution of Aspherical Winds and Environments</a>	SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System	2000

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## Talks

Institution and Topic	Date
<b>Rochester Institute of Technology</b> <i>Vernacular: Bridging Native and Web Applications</i> , Masters Defense	Dec 2013
<b>University of Rochester</b> CSC 161: <i>The Art of Programming</i> , Course Instructor	Jan 2015 - Present
CSC 162: <i>The Art of Data Structures</i> , Course Instructor	Jul 2017 - Present
<i>Presentation on Collaboration, Documentation and Versioning</i>	Jun 2017
<b>RocPy: Rochester's Python Programmers User Group</b> Monthly RocPy opening presentations	Jul 2012 - Present
<i>An Introduction to Pandas</i>	Jun 2017
<i>Binary &amp; WebSockets</i>	Feb 2017
<i>Web Scraping</i>	Jul 2016
<i>Wat's Up __doc__? (Python "Gotchas")</i>	Nov 2015
<i>New features in Python 3.5</i>	Sep 2015
<i>Python Bridges: Working With Other Language Runtimes</i>	Oct 2014
<i>tmux: A terminal multiplexer</i>	Jun 2014
<i>Live from PyCon</i>	Apr 2014
<i>Python Metaprogrammings</i>	Jan 2014
<i>Python ctypes</i>	Jun 2013
<i>Python Concurrency</i>	Jul 2013
<i>Python Descriptors</i>	Sep 2013
<i>Autobahn: A WebSocket client/server for Python</i>	Sep 2012
<i>Django: The Next Generation Web Application Framework</i>	Aug 2012
<b>Fermilab</b> <i>Upgrade of CDF Data Logger</i> , IEEE NPSS Real Time Conference	Apr 2007

## Groups

Organization	Description	Position	Date
RocPy	Rochester, NY Python Programmers User Group	Co-organizer, presenter	2012 - Present
The Geek Podcast	Podcast on science, technology, geek culture	Co-Host	2010 - 2011
Apple CIDER	Apple Macintosh User Group	Treasurer, secretary	2006 - 2008