

Mission

To bring over 17 years of Information Technologies experience to enhance your business by encouraging quality team work, quickly solving complex problems, and controlling project costs.

Contact

Phone:.....	612.298.7289	LinkedIn:....	www.linkedin.com/in/rickmahn
Email:.....	rick@rickmahn.com	Facebook:..	www.facebook.com/p/Rick_Mahn/608796042
Blog:.....	http://rickmahn.com	GTalk:.....	rickmahn@gmail.com
Twitter:	http://twitter.com/rickmahn	Plaxo:	http://pulse.plaxo.com/pulse/profile/show/77309658554/
Skype:	rickmahn		

Brief Biography

I've been fortunate to have an exciting, vibrant, robust, and diverse career in Information Technology. Starting in the late 1980's during college I got into the low-voltage cabling industry. In 1990 this opened up opportunities with computer departments and exposure to Novell NetWare.

Becoming a NetWare 3.x guru in the early 1990's I spent several years in server administration, systems & operations management, mainframe integration, routed networking, and client provisioning. Starting in 1998, I took a "short" 3 month contract at Michael Foods, Inc. Two years later, I was brought on as a permanent employee as a Technologies Analyst and remained with the company for another 7 years.

With exposure to many career expanding opportunities in systems & operations management, disaster recover planning, remote access solutions, mobile device & messaging, systems integration, and architecture planning, I thrived. In addition to technical skills enhancement, I have been managing & leading projects and teams to answer business requirements and problems. This includes designing, implementing & managing an enterprise-class testing environment with all required hardware, software, space, documentation and most importantly, testing methodologies to replicate all existing systems and help successfully implement any project the business required.

Finally, in April 2007 I resigned from my Senior Technologies Analyst position and struck out on my own as an independent consultant. The services I provide through my firm, called Avatar Consultants, have expanded to include new/social media exploration in addition to my existing traditional Information Technology offerings.

Published

Currently, you can find my written work on several websites (RickMahn.com, [The Mobile Lifestyle](#), [Snowmoblog](#)), as well as my regular column on Social Media Exploration in [Personal Branding Magazine](#). Watch for more soon!

Write ups

While blogging, I've generated some interest by members of the press. Here are a few links to some articles that I've been interviewed for and/or contributed information. As the URLs are quite long, you can find the links on the online version of my resume at <http://rickmahn.com/resume>.

- [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- [Fast Company](#)

Professional Experience

- Project management and leadership of small to medium information technology projects.
- An enterprise IT visionary, looking at the relevance of divergent new, upcoming technologies and how they become applicable to the business world.
- Information Technology Microsoft Windows architecture & design (*Windows, Wireless & Wired network, remote access VPN & Dialup, Terminal Services, Windows CE, Novell*).
- Secure remote access systems such as virtual private networking and dialup.
- Communications and messaging systems such as Microsoft Exchange, and Live Communications Server.
- Management of various IT systems as a “system owner”, requiring vendor contract negotiations, budget planning of future upgrade projects, a “visionary” view of the system and its future directions.
- Software development with Microsoft Visual Basic, scripting with Visual Basic Scripting and several proprietary scripting languages (product specific)
- Establishment and publishing several blogs on the Internet. These range from my personal blog (<http://rickmahn.com>) to mobile experiences & news (<http://themobilelifestyle.com>) to my favorite hobby, snowmobiling (<http://snowmoblog.com>).

Accomplishments

- Managed, planned, designed and implemented a secure enterprise-class Virtual Private Networking system. System was deployed initially to 250 users.
- Planned, designed, implemented & managed the IT Non-Production Environment (testing lab at Michael Foods, Inc.) for multiple projects (including disaster recovery planning) which had hardware, software, staff, and time interdependencies.
- Design & implementation of mobile client device (Windows CE 5.0) for an SAP Warehouse Management solution.
- Managed the design & implementation of Microsoft Systems Management Server 2003 (w/SP1) enterprise-wide in the US & Canada.
- Managed the project to develop a single standardized Windows XP based client computer “image”. This included several Office family software products along with business specific and ERP software requirements.
- Planning & deployment of BlackBerry Enterprise Server policies and device management services. With a focus on manageability & security of data & devices.
- Developed and deployed custom Microsoft Active Directory Group Policies on an enterprise scale.
- *Defined & wrote standardized testing procedures, along with supporting documentation and framework flowcharts*
- Planning & deployment of the router infrastructure in a Distance Learning environment in Montana.
- Development of an order-inventory-shipping database application. This was accomplished using Microsoft Access & Visual Basic, and delivered a system that tracked inventory, costs, and created invoicing & shipping documentation.

Skills

- Microsoft Windows (17 years)
- Microsoft Systems Management Server (9 years)
- Microsoft Active Directory Design (5 years)
- Microsoft Active Directory Group Policy (5 years)
- Microsoft Active Directory Security (5 years)
- Microsoft Certificate Authority planning, implementation, and management (5 years)
- Microsoft Exchange (4 years)
- Microsoft Office Suite (inc. OneNote, Visio, Project, Publisher) (15 years)
- Microsoft Visual Basic Programming (5 years [intermediate])
- Visual Basic Scripting (6 years)
- Change Management (5 years)
- Windows Mobile devices including Pocket PC and Smartphone (8 years)
- Windows CE client devices (2 years)
- Novell NDS (4 years)
- Novell NetWare (5 years)
- Check Point Integrity (4 years)
- Cisco ACS (TACACS+, RADIUS) (4 years)
- Cisco VPN (4 years)
- iPass connectivity solution including iPassConnect & Roam Server (4 years)
- RSA Authentication Manager (4 years)
- Wireless Networking (5 years)
- EAP-TLS Wireless Authentication (2 years)
- Project Management (5 years)
- Project Leadership (10 years)
- Team Mentoring & Coaching (10 years)
- VPN Design & Implementation (5 years)
- WordPress Blogging Software (2 years)
- Disaster Recovery Planning & Exercise Execution (7 years)
- Computing Equipment Selection & Approval (15 years)
- Internet Domain Name management (for my own sites) (3 years)
- IT Non-Production Environment Design, Procurement, Implementation & Management (7 years)
- Beta Testing of operating systems, business software, online services, mobile connectivity technologies, mobile software, mobile phones, online storage solutions, blogging platforms, messaging & IM solutions, backup, and security software (17 years)
- Client Image creation using Microsoft & 3rd party tools (15 years)
- Wavelink Avalanche Management Console (1 year)
- Adobe PhotoShop & basic graphic design/manipulation (1 year – basic skills)
- BlackBerry Enterprise Server Policies (2 years)
- Symantec AntiVirus Enterprise Edition (10 years)
- 3Com & Cisco Network Routers & Switches (2 years)
- Mobile email solutions via BlackBerry, Exchange, and 3rd party solutions (5 years)
- Professional documentation creation using Microsoft Word (15 years)
- Understanding and proficiency of use of HTML, XHTML, XML, CSS, and some PHP (3 years)
- Exploration of Red Hat and Fedora Linux distributions in concert with OpenOffice as a corporate desktop platform (<1 year actual)
- Software Licensing Negotiation (10 years)
- Service & Support Negotiation (10 years)

You are reading a social media resume!

More information about Rick A. Mahn and the ability to leave feedback, can be found on the online portion of this social media resume located at <http://rickmahn.com/resume>. To learn more about how you can build a social media resume, or to leverage *your* personal brand, contact Rick directly.

Work History

- Owner & Windows IT Infrastructure Architect** April 2007 to Present
Avatar Consultants www.avatarconsultants.com
As an independent consultant, I specialize in designing and implementing the infrastructure components required for today's Information Technology needs. Focusing on business requirements to identify the best solution for an organization regardless of its size, and with attention on the value it brings to the business. With experience in remote access, disaster recovery, business continuity planning, research & development environment management, systems & operations management, and complete end-to-end client side management, I provide proven solutions to these common problems facing every business. Additionally, I supply project management skills, teambuilding, coaching & mentoring, and 18 years of IT experience to bring projects to successful conclusion.
- Author/Writer** June 2007 to Present
Personal Branding Magazine personalbrandingmag.com
I'm a contributing author for "Personal Branding Magazine", a quarterly magazine dedicated to helping people discover and enhance their personal brand. I write about social media, communication, and of course, personal branding.
- Sr. Technologies Analyst** February 2006 to April 2007
Michael Foods, Inc., Minnetonka, MN www.michaelfoods.com
As the Sr. Client Technologies Analyst for Michael Foods (a \$1.3bln U.S. food company), I perform visionary IT duties, looking at emerging and future technologies, planning how they would be integrated into the enterprise. In the exercise of this effort I plan and implement technology that requires an understanding of IT from the physical network layer all the way to the customer (end user) expectations of an application and everything in between. I utilize Project Management & Leadership skills to successfully implement these technologies in a progressive team environment that strives for continuous improvement through cross training, coaching and mentoring.
- Technologies Analyst** July 2000 to January 2006
Michael Foods, inc., Minnetonka, MN www.michaelfoods.com
Starting in July 2000, I was hired direct by Michael Foods to lead up their client standardization efforts. In addition to standardizing their Windows NT client images, I laid the ground work for the Windows XP & Office XP image that would be managed via Active Directory and Systems Management Server. The base XP image that my first major IT project developed in 2002 is still used in production today, with an estimated lifecycle to last through 2009 (assuming maintenance with Service Packs, security patches, and other required maintenance to remain under Microsoft support standards). In addition to client standards development, my duties expanded to include planning, mentoring and cross training the server and client teams to work more efficiently, supplying common tools, concepts, and methods for each.
- Novell NetWare & NDS Administrator** March 1998 to June 2000
Michael Foods, Inc., Minnetonka, MN (via Hayden & Associates, Inc.)
Placed at Michael Foods, Inc. for an initial 3 month contract, my duties where for Novell NetWare administration, and management of their Kohler Mix Specialties facility network in White Bear Lake, MN. As you can tell from the above entries, that initial contract has turned into a nearly decade long commitment to Michael Foods. Additional duties at this time were for client support, onsite network support, implementation of training facilities onsite, and engineering the Novell Directory Services implementation for the entire organization.
- Novell Administrator, Network Engineer, Server & Network Consultant** 1994 to 1998
Independent Consultant
As an independent consultant, I provided server administration for Novell and Windows NT, client image creation for Windows 3.x, 95, 98, and NT, worked on directory services implementations (Novell Directory Services). Systems management using ManageWise and Systems Management Server, systems backup, and messaging systems using Novell GroupWise and Microsoft Mail among many projects additional projects. During this time I worked with Professional Computer Services in Eden Prairie, LANWorks, Inc. and Syslan on several contract services.
- Novell NetWare Administrator** 1993 to 1994
Farmers Home Mutual Insurance Company, Bloomington, MN www.farmershome.com
- Novell NetWare Administrator** 1990 to 1993
Hammel, Green, & Abrahamson, Minneapolis, MN www.hga.com