

Diagramming IT Environments

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Description

If I can't draw it, I don't understand it. In this class, I provide you with electronic templates, practical techniques, and real-world examples of diagrams which support an operational IT shop's needs for trouble-shooting: cabling, power, networks, servers, storage systems, applications. We'll see examples of what has worked and examples of what hasn't worked and the stages through which diagrams progress as they evolve to reflect your deepening understanding of how your environment works.

From this review, I propose lessons around how sustainability and supportability interact with design and architecture. And we discuss how to use diagramming to inform your trouble-shooting strategies horizontally as well as to communicate the cost of business decisions upward. Robust architectures can often be drawn in simple ways. Similarly, haphazard designs and aging craft typically result in rube goldberg installations: diagramming that complexity can help your peers and management grasp fragility and costs.

In the full-day version of this class, we break intermittently for hands-on practice using a drawing package of your choice, printing our drafts, and reviewing the results as a class. Preview the [deck](#) to get a feel for how the day will go.

Who should attend

Sys admins and network engineers involved in supporting operational IT environments.

Take back to work

Practice in employing a range of techniques to conceive of and produce visual documentation.