# Recommendation for András Spitzer

I met András Spitzer almost 20 years ago when I was leading the European Compute Operations Team for GE Healthcare. András was presented to me as a candidate for one of the L3 Unix and Linux server administrator roles. His reputation was already very well established at that time: when I engaged my network highly reliable references, like senior service engineers from Sun Microsystems provided immaculate references about András. He was already a respected and well known member of the professional community.

It did not take him very long to live up to the high expectations I had: literally a few days after his start he was managing live production systems under Veritas Cluster which he never used before. First I was skeptical but learnt very quickly that I was privileged to have a member in the team who has outstanding understanding of the IT stack from the top to the bottom. He is one of the few who can and is willing to analyze a problem where there is no help in any documentation. Networking, storage, operating system, middleware or applications, he is always ready to find the real root cause of the problem and deliver the permanent fix.

His depth of understanding of the technicality is well demonstrated by these two stories: once GE was closing a datacenter, the old site had to be evacuated on a deadline. The project team failed to migrate a legacy application cluster from the old infra to the shiny new in a GE datacenter, as the nodes could not communicate to each other. András got involved, took him two weeks and the development of a home grown cluster communication test tool to identify a bug in the Multicast part of the new Solaris 10 kernel and prove the improper configuration of the datacenter Cisco devices to the network team which caused the cluster failure together. Another time the Oracle Hyperion environment of GE Capital was failing regularly, and no one had a clue what might cause it. Once András was engaged after long days of work he identified the actual issue in the application: the Java code was calling non thread safe functions in the multithreaded environment. Oracle was very grateful for his identifying a previously unknown bug and he received an award from the GE Capital CIO for saving the datacenter migration project.
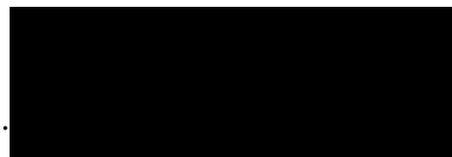
I think the examples above prove well the outstanding value he can deliver in any organization:

- deep technical understanding of several otherwise isolated technical areas
- interest and willingness to learn new technology every day
- can start analyzing and fixing any completely unknown environment
- outstanding endurance when looking for the root cause fueled by scientific curiosity
- extraordinary communication skills from the technical level to C-level executives when presenting his results

What amazes me in András the most is the tireless attitude what keeps him going and staying up to date with today's technical revolution in the computing area after more than two decades in the trenches. His determination to get things not only done but done in the right way backed up by his skills and experience makes him a one in the million in today's technology world. When AI systems will fail he will be the one to bring them back up as he does not need an AI to help him do his work at all, but will still use it to make him more effective.

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