

# 5 HABITS OF SUCCESSFUL SYSADMINS



Table of  
**Content**

**01**

Introduction

**02**

A world without a sysadmin

**03**

Five habits for success

**04**

Why sysadmins love  
Endpoint Central

**05**

Hear from fellow sysadmins

# YOU ARE ONE OF US

People break things. You make repairs. You figure out a way to keep them from doing it. They break things again, but now in a new way! Your phone never stops ringing, your email is overflowing with complaints, and you feel less like an IT worker and more like a firefighter. If you can relate to this struggle of keeping your head above water, you are one of us. You are a sysadmin!

With half the world gone remote in the post-lockdown normalcy, system administrators have been pulling strings to keep the show running seamlessly. Today, organizations need skilled and equipped administrators who can be early adopters of evolving technologies and security intelligence. We have curated a list of five habits that will help you have a successful system administrator career. But first, have you ever wondered what people would do if it weren't for you?



## A WORLD WITHOUT A SYSADMIN

Many people believe that system administrators are basically guys who yell a "NO!" at users who try to do something foolish with the company's system. But do they know that a system administrator's real job is to keep the entire company from utter chaos? They'll have to awkwardly postpone their meeting because the laptop that crashed just before a crucial presentation will still be down. Because all the other printers are broken, the 1,500 people on your floor will be dependent on that one working printer. All the unpatched machines will become a doorway for the bad guys to steal the data from your business, lock you out of your account, and carry out other acts that might cost your firm a fortune and permanently harm your reputation.

System administrators are the grease in the gears of a company; they're required to keep things functioning smoothly, handle the ongoing day-to-day tasks, and ensure all the systems are up and running.



# FIVE HABITS FOR SUCCESS

Although system administrators are known to put in long hours, some are more productive than others. How? Habits. Did you know our habits influence the 35,000 decisions we make each day? It should go without saying that developing simple, consistent routines can increase your productivity in unexpected ways. To excel at your career, you don't need superhuman abilities! All you need are some effective habits that don't feel like extra work and come naturally to you. Here are five behaviors that successful system administrators frequently exhibit:

- 01 Security first, convenience next
- 02 Automation is the key
- 03 There's always 'one more thing' to learn
- 04 Learning begins at home
- 05 There are no wrong notes

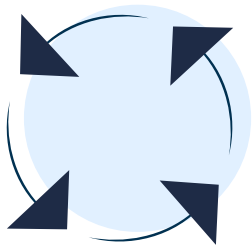


## Security first, convenience next



Security should be on the top of your mind across everything you do as a system administrator. As per the 2022 Data Breach Investigations Report by Verizon, 82% of breaches were because of human error. With cybercrimes shooting up by 600% since the pandemic began, it is the system administrator's responsibility to keep the network safe from inside and outside threats. Subscribe to podcasts, YouTube channels, and blogs that discuss the recent trends in cybersecurity. Be firm in the face of people criticizing you for changing things. It's easier just to tick off things in your job description than it is to be proactive and improve security, but it will save you in the long run. When it comes to IT security, failing to prepare means preparing to fail. So make sure to keep your network defended as a whole.

## Automation is the key



Doing repetitive, tedious tasks is not only a waste of time, it can lead to errors and mental fatigue. Automate everything you can. Are you living inside of a spreadsheet and maintaining a list of all the systems in your network? Are you manually downloading patches from hundreds of vendors and applying them on each machine? Do you still struggle with troubleshooting slow systems? All of these tasks can be end-to-end automated with tools like Endpoint Central. Surprisingly, determining what to automate can be almost as complex as figuring out how to do it. Endpoint Central provides templates, so half the work is already done. Automation frees up more time in your day to explore new concepts, improve end-user experience, implement new ideas for your environment, etc. Plus, with automated updates, security is improved.

## There's always 'one more thing' to learn.



The prime indicator of success as a sysadmin is the drive for self-learning. Urge yourself to continue learning no matter how many years of experience you have. Because let's face it, technology is always changing. When you're in a conversation and someone mentions a technology or term you're not familiar with, be sure to look it up later. In time of need, you'll be surprised by how much information you actually know. Growing in knowledge will help you become better at troubleshooting—not just clicking things until it works, but being

able to break the problem down into incrementally smaller problems rather than trying to solve the whole thing at once. As mercurial as the IT stream is, it is crucial to make efforts to stay relevant. Since the pandemic, we are witnessing market trends and user needs evolve at an alarming rate. Attend relevant conferences, webinars, seminars, and learn from people more experienced than you.

## Learning begins at home



Set up a home lab with hardware and software that you can afford. It can be anything from an entire environment to a simple desktop. The more you poke your own lab infrastructure, the more likely you are to find weak points. And the more often you repair those weak spots, the more confident you'll become in your problem-solving skills. The knowledge you gain at home playing around with servers, networking, and software will help you at work. Having a home lab can also break you out of a burnout, as we are often recharged and refreshed by learning new things. You can also maintain a small lab in the cloud for as little as a few bucks a month. Just remember not to replicate your work environment in your home lab—leave work at work.

## There are no wrong notes

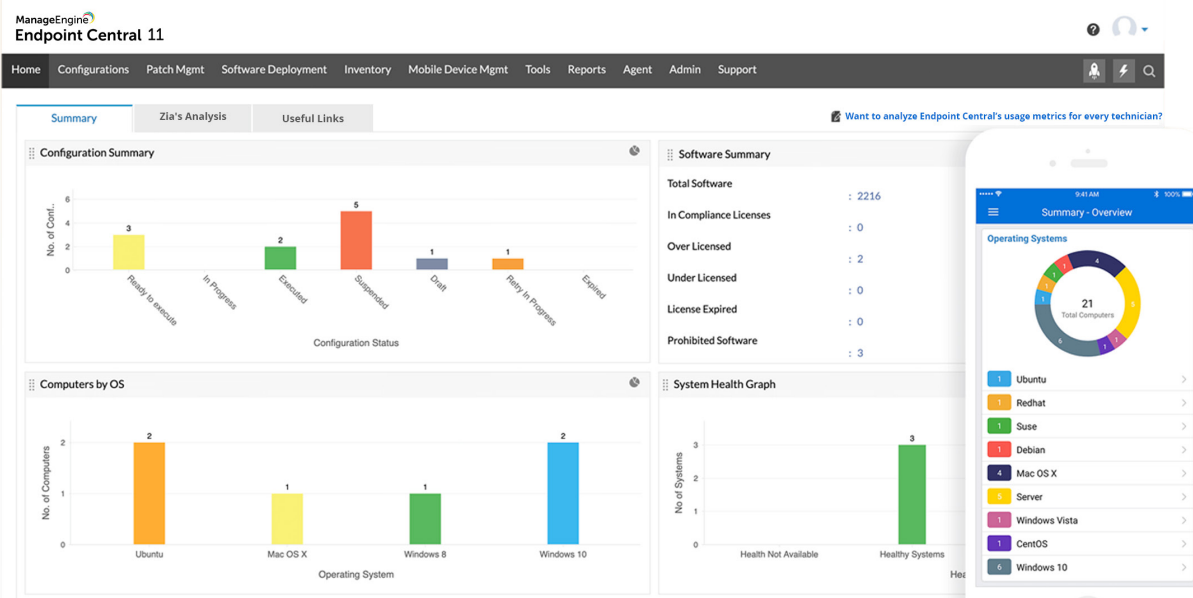


Highly effective people are note takers. Keep everything you learn well organized, and while you're fixing issues for clients, keep thorough notes. Document your learning process and maintain it as a physical database of everything you know. Write down your command line snippets, steps to install something, URLs where you found information, uncommon problems that you solved at work, learnings from a recent server crash, and so on. The more you document now, the more the practice gets ingrained as second nature. Researchers say that the information associated with writing by hand on physical paper leads to improved memory. If writing is not your thing, you can also keep an index folder of text files with notes and snippets of information. You can reference it the next time you're stumped, or use it to instruct your juniors.

# WHY SYSADMINS LOVE ENDPOINT CENTRAL

If we told you that a piece of software could handle all of your sysadmin tasks, would you believe us? Yes, it's true! This is how you level up! ManageEngine's Endpoint Central can help you.

Endpoint Central is loved by sysadmins for endpoint administration and automation requirements, and it consistently receives recognition from IDC, Gartner®, and Forrester. It differs from other endpoint management tools because of its extreme affordability, wealth of functionality, and easy-to-use design. It also does not require extensive coding skills. As an IT administrator, Endpoint Central relieves a lot of your burdens by providing control and security while you sit comfortably in your chair.





# FEATURES

- ◆ End-to-end patch management with automated OS and 250+ third-party patching.
- ◆ Instant software deployment using 8000+ pre-defined templates.
- ◆ Remotely control and troubleshoot devices via one-click desktop sharing capabilities, while still complying with user privacy.
- ◆ Asset management for both physical and digital assets in real time.
- ◆ Automatically capture the OS image of a computer, whether it's on or shut down, using intelligent online and offline imaging techniques.
- ◆ Maximum endpoint security with Vulnerability Management, Application Control, Device Control, BitLocker Management, and Browser Security.
- ◆ Modern management capabilities for all system management needs.
- ◆ 25+ pre-defined configurations including Power Management, USB Device Management, Security Policies, and more.

Read more on Endpoint Central

VISIT PAGE

Try the fully functional product for free

GET FREE TRIAL

Explore the no-effort demo server

TRY ONLINE DEMO

## HEAR FROM FELLOW SYSADMINS

Note: These reviews were shared by these professionals when the product was named 'Desktop Central'. It got renamed to 'Endpoint Central' in May 2022.



One of the easiest Desktop Management Programs I have ever used. I have been a systems administrator for 15 years and have never used a product that is so stable and easy to use. This has saved thousands of dollars. Great products all around.

We use OpManager, Service Desk Plus, and Desktop Central, and all are integrated with each other in some way. Great products!

**Kyle Wilson**  
Providence **St. Mary Medical Center**



Within Desktop Central, the Louisiana Governor's Office utilizes auto-patch deployment, inventory, and computer configurations such as monthly defragmentation schedules. After placing many calls to Desktop Central's support line, I have found their staff to be friendly and very quick to respond to the needs of their customers. Not only has the Desktop Central team solved issues within the software but when a feature was needed, they were quick to add that feature. I have never had software developers respond in this manner. I would recommend and have recommended this product to many other network administrators. Thank you Desktop Central.

**Jerry Wade**  
Office of the Governor, LA  
**Computer support, PSA**



“

Desktop Central is a must have tool for today's smart administrators. Managing software updates to security patches, remote desktop to other useful tools, asset management and many more features makes my life very easy as an administrator to manage 500+ clients with various locations. The product is peace maker for the administrators to manage their day-to-day activities in such complex IT infrastructures. Support is excellent, frequent updates and easy to manage. Hope to see more powerful tools and features in Desktop Central."

**Mahendrasinh B. Jadeja**  
Sr. systems engineer  
Muscat Pharmacy & Stores LLC

”

## RECOGNISED BY

