MARK SOUTER
GROUP IT MANAGER
SCAN DISPLAY

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Company: Founded in 1996, Scan Display is a leader in the Southern African exhibition, events and retail display industries, specialising in award-winning exhibition stands, retail displays, and event and exhibition infrastructure.

Group: Scan Display, Siyabonisa, Ndlovu, First Focus Finance, First Focus Management, Granite Plus, e-Granite.

Date: November 1998 – March 2005

Responsibilities:

- o Management of all ICT projects
- o Project Manage the relocation of company to new premises.
- o Design and installation of all IT requirements at New premises.
- o Management of all IT Projects and Support Nationally
- o Design and installation of new companies within group.
- o Project Management of all IT and audio visual requirements at Trade shows (United Nations world summit Etheopia, Addis Ababa.)
- o Stand Design and project management of build up
- o 3d Animation and Walkthroughs
- o Liaisons with Media centre's for final presentation edits
- o Compiling of Training Manuals and Company Operations Manual

I started at e-Granite, a subsidiary of Scan Display which supplied the granite quarries with diamond abrasive wire and diamond segmented blades for the granite and marble kitchen processors. Dazzini wire saws were also supplied as well as the PP90 which was a 90mm rock drill.

Every time the Linux server would drop, I would get up and get it back on line. The directors decided that waiting for a response time from our outsourced IT support was to much of a risk and offered me the chance to take over the IT department. This I welcomed with open arms as I do enjoy technology and the pace of change.

With that, Scan immediately enrolled me on courses so as to improve my knowledge on computers, this is where I completed my A+ and Network+. At this stage Scan Display's CAGR was projected at 30% which meant more users bigger servers, more routers and switches stronger security with redundant servers. I redesigned the whole network, implementing new policies, redundant servers, stronger firewalls and threat management software.

Through creating an IT department that was fully functional we were able to source out our services to the exhibition industry which meant that the IT department was now contributing to Scan's revenue. I went on more courses so as to help improve my offerings for Scan. These included 3D studio max (3D design and Animation), Sage Pastel accounting advanced, AutoCAD 2D Architecture, Web design and graphic design. I was put in charge of tenders which we eventually had a strike rate of 40% on all tenders pitched.

I was appointed to fly to Ethiopia to the United Nations Head Office to project manage the IT at the International AIDS Conference. Unfortunately, there was no more growth for me at Scan and it was time to move on. It was sad to say goodbye to Justin and Alex Hawes who had been supportive in every roll that I took on at Scan but it was time to move on.