

Josh Symonds

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Go · Kubernetes · AWS · Terraform · GitOps · LLM Orchestration · Observability

EXPERIENCE

CrossnoKaye

Principal Infrastructure Engineer

Chicago, IL

Jan 2021 - Present

- Go Services & Tooling: Built production Go services and CLI tools using Go: K8s service proxy, BDD end-to-end testing framework, and unified developer CLI - tools used daily across a 30+ microservice platform.
- GitOps & Platform: Architected Flux CD infrastructure across multiple AWS EKS clusters for an industrial IoT platform with real-time monitoring, AI diagnostics, and edge computing. Owned environment promotion and rollback patterns.
- Infrastructure: Built Terraform modules for EKS, IAM, ECR, and Route53. Deployed self-hosted PaaS and ChatOps deployment bot. Integrated Tailscale and WireGuard for edge networking.
- Edge Platform: Built OS-level deployment framework for IoT agents: custom k3os distro with automated provisioning and Flux CD for GitOps to edge. Led migration to Talos Linux for improved security.
- LLM Enablement: Created weekly "Cooking with LLMs" workshops teaching engineering org to leverage AI tools. Built Core Services function from scratch: operating model, governance, and cross-org sponsorship.

Capital Markets Gateway

Senior DevOps Engineer & CISO

Chicago, IL

June 2019 - Dec 2020

- Kubernetes: Built custom operators, Helm charts, and multi-region failover on Azure AKS. Deployed Istio for mTLS and canary deployments.
- Security: Designed NIST CSF and ISO 27001 programs. Passed audits by major financial institutions. Wrote custom Terraform providers.

M1 Finance

Chief Information Security Officer

Chicago, IL

Aug 2015 - Oct 2019

- Zero to Scale: Built greenfield AWS infrastructure that scaled M1 from zero to over a million customers and billions in AUM. Owned all deployment pipelines, CI/CD, and production systems.
- Kubernetes: Deployed and operated bare-metal Kubernetes clusters. Led migration to AWS managed EKS when it became production-ready.
- Security Program: Built M1's security program from scratch. Implemented SOC 2 controls, handled incident response, managed vendor assessments.

Symonds & Son

Founder & President

Chicago, IL

2011 - Present

- LiveWorld: Infrastructure consulting for enterprise social media platform. Manage EKS, Terraform, and observability stack. Led Ruby 3 migration across 3 production Rails apps (60k+ LOC).

PROJECTS

Afterlight

Go, SvelteKit, PostgreSQL, pgvector

Multi-agent LLM orchestration engine. 196k lines of Go: phase-based state machine with tool-mediated LLM control, real-time SSE streaming, pgvector semantic search, and research-backed drama management. Custom test harness for deterministic LLM scenario testing.

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

BA in East Asian Languages and Civilizations

Chicago, IL

2001 - 2005