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Alex Wicks

About Me

Experienced technical leader in systems, storage and cloud infrastructure, with a strong affinity for automation and reducing toil. While I have a heavy administration background, I also enjoy programming, primarily in Python, Go and Rust. I do not shy away from learning new skills and technologies. Outside of work, I enjoy photography, cars, cooking and travelling.

Experience

Maven Securities

Platform Engineer Jun. 2024 — Present

Migrated Kubernetes service advertisement from MetalLB to Cilium BGP control plane, implementing custom Prometheus exporter for monitoring. Designed an automated PKI solution using ACME and step-ca. Migrated large Kafka clusters into Kubernetes using Strimzi. Maintained an operator to configure OIDC clients in Keycloak, including a rewrite from Go to Rust, and Envoy Gateway integration for app-agnostic authentication. Deployed an on-premises data warehouse platform leveraging VAST S3, Hive metastore, Lakekeeper and Trino, working with data team to migrate from AWS Athena.

Speechmatics

Sr. Site Reliability Engineer Jan. 2023 — Apr. 2024

In addition to previous responsiblities - primary technical contact for all on-premises resources (networking, VMware, SAN, etc). Setup of high-performance bare-metal GPU clusters (NVidia H100 & A100), including updating our fork of Sun Grid Engine to work on Ubuntu 22.04. Replaced manual processes with a GitOps pipeline for our SaaS environment releases, enabling blue/green and canary testing of new infrastructure and software across multiple clusters. Leading best practices in our Kubernetes environments - e.g. implementing a GitOps CI/CD workflow, which reduced deployment time across our environments from days to hours as well as adding extra quality checks.

Site Reliability Engineer Jan. 2022 — Jan. 2023

Working across on-premises AI GPU research and training environment, and production SaaS environment in Azure. Management of infrastructure deployments using GitLab CI & Terraform, designing modules to abstract this, as well as conformance testing frameworks with Terratest. Planned and executed datacentre migration to a new colocation.

Capgemini HMRC Market Unit

Platform Engineer – Metrics & Monitoring Jul. 2021 — Dec. 2021

Implement Thanos in a large AWS environment for Prometheus metric aggregation and long-term retention, enabling a single pane of glass across thousands of EC2 instances and 10,000s of Kubernetes pods. Design and roll out a blackbox monitoring solution for key platform services such as Consul & Vault, monitoring availability from various tenants to ensure SLAs were not breached.

Flextrade

DevOps Engineer Aug. 2020 — Jul. 2021

Create bare-metal Kubernetes clusters using PXE automation. Migrate CI/CD to new k8s deployment, reducing build times by 40%. Pilot hybrid-cloud bursting workloads into AWS. Lead cross-functional initiative for continuous delivery framework. Implementing automation framework for deploying VMs from Jira tickets.

Systems Administrator Mar. 2019 — Aug. 2020

Operations & incident response in a complex on-premises, multi-tenant SaaS environment. Administration and configuration management of Linux & Windows systems - bare-metal and virtualised. VMWare ESXi/vSphere administration, maintenance & upgrades, including vSphere 6 to 7 and linked mode. Storage management - administering and provisioning LUNs, deploying and configuring NFS servers. Firewall, VPN & L2 switch configuration and troubleshooting, TLS certificate management, PCAP analysis for latency issues. Mentoring & training junior engineers to complete BAU tasks.

Further history available upon request