

# Alex Wicks

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## About Me

Technical leader bridging infrastructure and software engineering with expertise spanning bare-metal to cloud environments. I specialize in Kubernetes, observability, CI/CD, and infrastructure as code, bringing a pragmatic approach to complex problems – whether architecting PKI solutions, writing Kubernetes operators, or optimizing network performance. I focus on empowering developers through invisible, reliable infrastructure.

Outside of work, I enjoy photography, cars, cooking, and traveling.

## Skills

### Containerisation & Orchestration

Kubernetes, Docker

### Languages

Go, Rust, Python, Bash

### CI/CD & GitOps

GitLab CI, ArgoCD, GitOps

### Cloud & Infrastructure as Code

Azure, AWS, Ansible, Terraform

### Observability

OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Thanos, Loki, Vector

### Infrastructure

Linux, Windows, VMware, Networking, PKI, Storage

## Certifications

Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCSA) • Azure AZ-700: Designing and Implementing Azure Networking Solutions

## Experience

### Maven Securities

#### Platform Engineer

Jun. 2024 - Present

Support ~100 development engineers with platform infrastructure and provide traders with analysis environments (JupyterHub, Coder).

- Migrated Kubernetes networking from MetallLB to **Cilium BGP**, implementing peering with ToR switches and developing a **custom Prometheus exporter** for visibility into BGP session state and route advertisements.
- Implemented an **automated PKI solution** using ACME and step-ca, eliminating manual certificate management and enabling automated TLS for internal services.
- Migrated large **Kafka** clusters into Kubernetes using Strimzi for our logging pipelines, including optimisations to consumer and producer throughput, reducing system latency.
- Maintain a **custom Kubernetes operator** for configuring OIDC clients in Keycloak, including a complete rewrite from Go to Rust for improved performance and maintainability, plus **Envoy Gateway** integration for application-agnostic authentication.
- Deployed an **on-premises data warehouse** platform using VAST S3, Hive metastore, Lakekeeper, and Trino, collaborating with the data team to migrate from AWS Athena and save **\$200k+/year** in cloud costs while improving query performance and reducing latency in data availability.

### Speechmatics

#### Sr. Site Reliability Engineer

Jan. 2023 - Apr. 2024

Owned all on-premises resources including networking, VMware, and SAN infrastructure. Built **high-performance bare-metal GPU clusters** (NVIDIA H100 & A100) for AI training workloads, including updating our Sun Grid Engine fork for Ubuntu 22.04 compatibility. Replaced manual processes with a **GitOps pipeline** for SaaS environment releases, enabling blue/green and canary testing of new infrastructure and software across multiple clusters. This reduced deployment time from **days** to **hours** while adding automated quality checks and rollback capabilities.

#### Site Reliability Engineer

Jan. 2022 - Jan. 2023

Managed on-premises AI GPU research and training environment for ~50 engineers and researchers, plus customer-facing SaaS environment in **Azure** spanning 6 regions. Managed infrastructure deployments using **GitLab CI** and **Terraform**, designing reusable modules and conformance testing frameworks with **Terratest**. Led datacentre migration to a new colocation.

### Capgemini – HMRC Market Unit

#### Platform Engineer – Metrics & Monitoring

Jul. 2021 - Dec. 2021

Built metrics and monitoring platform for HMRC AWS infrastructure spanning two regions with thousands of EC2 nodes and hundreds of Kubernetes nodes (10,000+ pods). Implemented **Thanos** for Prometheus metric aggregation and long-term retention, providing unified observability across the entire estate. Deployed blackbox monitoring for platform services including **Consul** and **Vault** to ensure SLA compliance.

### Flextrade

#### DevOps Engineer

Aug. 2020 - Jul. 2021

Created bare-metal **Kubernetes** clusters using **PXE automation** and migrated CI/CD to Kubernetes, **reducing build times by 40%**. Piloted hybrid-cloud bursting workloads into AWS and led continuous delivery framework initiative.

#### Systems Administrator

Mar. 2019 - Aug. 2020

Operations and incident response in a complex on-premises, multi-tenant SaaS environment. Linux and Windows server administration, VMWare ESXi/vSphere & SAN maintenance and upgrades, firewall and switch configuration and troubleshooting; mentorship of junior engineers.