

# Rich Churcher

Senior Platform Engineer

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## Experience

### Cogo

Senior Platform Engineer

Dec 2022 – Present

Remote

- › Reduced costs significantly across all test environments by optimising resource utilisation and setting up automated, scheduled teardowns of environments using Terraform via GitHub Actions.
- › Increased the observability of costs across AWS accounts using Python, GitHub Actions and the AWS API. This was targeted to each individual team yielding continuous improvements in cost management.
- › Responded to incidents and pipeline blockages across the organisation.
- › Mentored more junior team members in AWS, infrastructure as code, and CI/CD.
- › Performed the majority of the internal audit for ISO27001 certification, providing feedback that contributed to a smooth and successful approval process.

### Spidertracks

Senior Software Engineer

Apr 2021 – Dec 2022

Remote

- › Mapped network ingress from Iridium satellites and cellular devices through a maze of legacy infrastructure to mitigate poor characteristics of a Java server under load.
- › Rebuilt on-call team and ops culture from the ground up after company was acquired.
- › Managed a wide variety of AWS infrastructure including EC2, Lambda, RDS, DynamoDB, Kinesis, Redshift, EventBridge, IoT Core.
- › Significantly improved the overall observability picture, including centralising scattered elements of New Relic, Grafana, CloudWatch, Sumologic, and Sentry, laying the groundwork for an eventual migration to a "single pane of glass".

### Eventfinda

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

Nov 2020 – Apr 2021

Remote

- › Assisted with and advised on upgrading a large existing codebase (React, PHP).
- › Improved test coverage of legacy code in order to avoid regressions when migrating to newer systems.

### BuildSpider

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

Sep 2019 – Nov 2020

Remote

- › Wrote extensive Postgres functions and migrations as part of a GraphQL API using Postgraphile.
- › Added a secure S3-backed file library feature using React, Relay, and role-based permissions using Postgres row-level security.

### HYPR Innovation

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

Feb 2019 – Sep 2019

Remote

- › React, MobX frontend development.
- › Lots of microservice development (mostly in Node) leveraging Kafka to process animal data for a large agri-corporation.
- › Coordinating with a wide variety of teams, each managing their own services, as well as a legacy team working in a completely separate hosted environment.

### Enspiral Dev Academy

Teacher, Software Engineer

Aug 2018 – Dec 2018

Auckland

- › Coached students individually, and taught curriculum at the classroom level.
- › Wrote and updated curriculum (React/Node). Ran multi-day exercises in team software development.

## Hylo

Software Engineer (Contract)

Mar 2017 – Aug 2018  
Remote (San Francisco)

- > Distributed team based out of the San Francisco bay area developing a messaging and collaboration tool for purpose-driven communities.
- > Worked particularly on the React Native mobile application. Solved some thorny performance problems and deep-linking bugs.

## Enspiral Dev Academy

Teacher, Software Engineer (Contract)

May 2016 – Mar 2017  
Auckland

## Saatchi & Saatchi

Software Engineer (Contract)

Feb 2016 – May 2016  
Auckland

## BKA Digital Outfitters

Software Engineer (Contract)

Oct 2015 – Feb 2016  
Auckland

## Starship Hospital

Paediatric Intensive Care Nurse

2003 – 2015  
Auckland

- > Flight nurse on the PICU transport team, flew to all areas of the country to collect patients. High degree of autonomy and trust in critical circumstances.

## Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children

Registered Nurse, PICU Nurse

May 1999 – May 2003  
Sydney

## Projects

### Bucket

Senior Software Engineer (Volunteer)

Apr 2022 – Present  
Remote

- > Sole developer and platform engineer for Fairground Foundation, working on Bucket, an environment crowdfunding application.
- > Wrote a Go API that implements the JSON:API standard using ECS, RDS (Postgres), sqlc, and Chi.
- > Built a cross-platform Flutter application implementing a Figma design, using modern state management tools.
- > Terraformed it all using a low-cost strategy to avoid excessive outlays during the pre-launch phase.

## Education

### Otago Polytechnic

Bachelor of Nursing

1996 – 1998  
Dunedin