

Rich Churcher

Senior Platform Engineer

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Experience

Basis

Oct 2024 – Present

Site Reliability Engineer

Remote

- Created an incident management plan for a complex production environment that included IoT, mobile, and cloud services components.
- Migrated an ECS-based datalake stack to Kubernetes.
- Migrated the terraform-based IaC environment from Terraform Cloud to Spacelift.

Lightspeed Commerce

Oct 2023 – Oct 2024

Senior Platform Engineer

Remote

- Wrote automated tooling in Go to traverse hundreds of GitHub repositories to update versions and configuration values.
- Repaired technical debt/broken builds, negotiating with teams to find the correct solution for technical debt/disused workflows.
- Implemented a custom GitHub runner to launch ops tasks in the production environment (database maintenance, new Kafka topics) reducing maintenance time and unblocking developer workflows.

Cogo

Dec 2022 – Oct 2023

Senior Platform Engineer

Remote

- Reduced development environment costs by more than half in some cases using Terraform to conduct timed teardowns via GitHub Actions.
- Increased the observability of costs across AWS accounts using Python and the AWS API.
- Negotiated, planned, and rewrote on-call and incident management documentation, making the on-call engineering experience safer and more predictable.
- Troubleshoot CI, deployment and runtime issues in a containerised Elixir (Phoenix) environment.

Spidertracks

Apr 2021 – Dec 2022

Senior Software Engineer

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

Nov 2020 – Apr 2021

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

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

Sep 2019 – Nov 2020

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

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

Feb 2019 – Sep 2019

Senior Software Engineer (Contract)

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

Aug 2018 – Dec 2018

Teacher, Software Engineer

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

Mar 2017 – Aug 2018

Software Engineer (Contract)

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

May 2016 – Mar 2017

Teacher, Software Engineer (Contract)

Auckland

Saatchi & Saatchi

Feb 2016 – May 2016

Software Engineer (Contract)

Auckland

BKA Digital Outfitters

Oct 2015 – Feb 2016

Software Engineer (Contract)

Auckland

Starship Hospital

2003 – 2015

Paediatric Intensive Care Nurse

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

May 1999 – May 2003

Registered Nurse, PICU Nurse

Sydney

Projects

Bucket

Apr 2022 – Present

Senior Software Engineer (Volunteer)

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 the lot using a low-cost strategy to avoid excessive outlays during the pre-launch phase.

Education

Otago Polytechnic

1996 – 1998

Bachelor of Nursing

Dunedin