

# Kris Hicks

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San Francisco

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## About me

Hi, I'm Kris. Back in 2007 I taught myself enough Ruby to automate parts of the job I had then. Since then I've worked in a variety of domains and technologies as a software engineer, site reliability engineer, and solutions architect as well as doing project management and product development.

## Past (reverse-chrono)

### Staff Engineer at Pivotal

- R&D on Cloud Foundry (<https://www.cloudfoundry.org>)
  - Led a revamp/refactoring of the Cloud Foundry CLI
  - On the Security Enablement team implemented a mechanism to scan all Cloud Foundry git repositories for secrets
  - Various work on BOSH (<https://github.com/cloudfoundry/bosh>) , BOSH CLI (<https://github.com/cloudfoundry/bosh-cli>) , Diego
- Concourse (<https://concourse-ci.org>)
  - Worked on many aspects; BOSH release, scheduler, CLI
- Solutions Architect
  - Devised multiple solutions for Comcast in their transition to Pivotal Cloud Foundry (<https://pivotal.io/platform>)
  - Created documentation/mitigation for multiple network-related Pivotal Cloud Foundry CVEs
- Customer[o]
  - Lead Engineer
  - Took over an internal project and made it into a viable customer-facing product, pcf-pipelines (<https://github.com/pivotal-cf/pcf-pipelines>) , which uses Terraform and Concourse to deploy Pivotal Cloud Foundry
  - Created pg2mysql (<https://github.com/pivotal-cf/pg2mysql>) to migrate PCF customers from PostgreSQL to MySQL, the third such attempt and the only one that worked
  - Brought in as a champion of PCF and knowledge expert regarding multiple

aspects of PCF during pre-sales calls

### **Lead Developer at DaisyBill**

- Lots of Ruby, SQL
- Designed and implemented a new product to add a revenue stream

### **Consultant at Pivotal Labs**

- Mostly Ruby/Rails websites as well as one iOS 5 app, one JRuby website

### **Consultant at ThoughtWorks**

- All Ruby/Rails work
- Part of a pair that led a rewrite of the core bidding algorithm for a large wholesale auto auction website

## **Present**

### **SWE-SRE at LightStep**

- Created robust build and release pipelines in Concourse
- Dockerfile updates to build Go binaries uniformly and quickly
- Created multiple developer tools for managing Let's Encrypt (<https://letsencrypt.org>) certs, CI pipelines
- Extended existing developer CLI tools for managing deployments
- Created a system for recording upgrades of helm charts for tracking developer KPIs including time from code merge to deploy
- Led security-focused work to remove secrets from Git repositories, restrict secrets to least-privileged access
- Instrumental in transition to a monolithic Git repository
- Led conversion of existing infrastructure to Terraform, used Terraform for new infrastructure
- Lots of work with helm (<https://helm.sh>) charts to standardize config

## **Future**

### **Continue**

- Being a multiplier for other engineers
- Working on infrastructure-as-code and continuous integration/continuous deployment
- Development in Go
- Using agile methodologies to build software
- Deploying onto Kubernetes

## **Investigate**

- Development in another language: Rust, Elixir, Elm

## **Do less of**

- Development in Ruby

## **What I look for in a workplace**

- Feedback-friendly culture with short feedback cycles
- A working environment where questions are seen as essential for knowledge transfer and growth
- Ability to use whatever tool is most suitable to solve a problem
- Access to a standing desk and a Linux workstation
- Relative quiet (loud, open floorplans packed with people aren't for me)
- A robust software engineering practice using some kind of project management tool (e.g. Pivotal Tracker) or the desire to do so
- "Agile" development process; basically any process that includes short iterations, frequent production releases and quick feedback rather than a waterfall process