

Kris Hicks

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tl;dr

- 10 years of experience as a software engineer, originally self-taught
- Broad experience beyond software engineering (see below)
- Highly experienced with Ruby, Go, shell, SQL
- Currently a Staff Engineer at Pivotal (<https://pivotal.io/>)
- Previously a consultant at ThoughtWorks (<https://www.thoughtworks.com/>) and Pivotal Labs (<https://pivotal.io/labs>), Lead Developer at DaisyBill (<https://www.daisybill.com>)
- Core contributor to Cloud Foundry (<https://www.cloudfoundry.org>) (BOSH, Diego, CLI) and Concourse (<https://concourse.ci>)
- Technical lead for multiple small- to medium-sized teams

Experience

Distributed systems (BOSH, Diego), configuration and secrets management, containers (Docker, Garden), 12-factor/cloud native application transformation, build and release, continuous integration and deployment (Jenkins, GoCD, Concourse), testing, infrastructure-as-code (Terraform), pipelines-as-code, network, application, and physical security, agile transformation, product development, AWS, GCP, and vSphere, Git branching strategies, monitoring and alerting (DataDog, Sentry), and customer success.

Selected History (reverse-chronological)

- Architect and primary engineer of `pcf-pipelines` (<https://github.com/pivotal-cf/pcf-pipelines>), a collection of CI pipelines-as-code for deploying and upgrading Pivotal Cloud Foundry
- Architect and sole engineer of `pg2mysql` (<https://github.com/pivotal-cf/pg2mysql>), a fast and safe tool for migrating data from PostgreSQL to MySQL, and `yaml-patch` (<https://github.com/krishicks/yaml-patch>), a complete re-implementation of RFC6902 (<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6902>) in YAML
- Numerous talks on best practices for CI/CD and Git
- Originated idea and implemented a system (<https://github.com/pivotal-cf/cred-alert/tree/master/src/cred-alert/revok>) for scanning Git repositories for secrets, replacing an inadequate prior attempt

- Reigned in massive technical debt while technical lead of the Cloud Foundry CLI
- Created a new product and revenue stream at DaisyBill
- Wrote a parser for EDI ANSI X12 documents
- Implemented a stored procedure in PostgreSQL to reduce query of 1.2mm records from 80+ seconds to 300ms
- Led a major rewrite of an online bidding platform
- Developed an automation framework that drove IE6, resulting in a 75-100x improvement in speed and elimination of errors in a data entry system

Interests

- Delivering business value first and foremost
- Solving problems with a pragmatic approach to testing and implementation
- Deep-dives into code to root out a bug or improve understanding of the code
- Building new systems, refactoring old ones
- Teaching people about Git, Vim, and Go
- Improving the interview process for software engineers
- Improving my ability and the ability of others to deliver software

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
- Ability to use whatever tool is most suitable to solve a problem
- Access to a standing desk and a Linux workstation
- Relative quiet (vast, 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