

# Kris Hicks

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## About me

**I am originally a self-taught developer.** In 2007 I taught myself enough Ruby to automate parts of the job I had then. **I prefer being a part of a small team.** I work best on a team with 2-8 people, with a dedicated project manager. **I prefer face-to-face communication.** I communicate my ideas best via high-bandwidth, face-to-face contact rather than over tools like Slack or e-mail. **I am a visual thinker.** I visualize problems and solutions to them and tend to draw my notes more frequently than I write them. **I learn by doing.** I wasn't able to get into software development until I had a problem to solve. The knowledge I have today is mostly that which I've gained practicing software development rather than reading or studying about it. **I like pair-programming.** I tend not to want to pair-program 100% of the time, but I am happy to pair-program to get past a tricky issue or ramp up a new engineer.

## My motto

*There's always a better way.*

There's almost always a better way of doing something. There's also a point of diminishing returns. I aim to find the balance. I used this motto to drive my decision to teach myself software development, and I use it on an ongoing basis to drive the decisions that I make day-to-day writing software.

## Experience

### 2017-current - SWE-SRE - 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

## 2014-2017 - Staff Engineer - Pivotal

- R&D on Cloud Foundry (<https://www.cloudfoundry.org>)
  - Led a revamp/refactoring of the Cloud Foundry CLI (<https://github.com/cloudfoundry/cli>) (Go)
  - 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]
  - 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

## Past Roles

- 2013-2014 - Lead Engineer - DaisyBill (<https://www.daisybill.com>)
- 2011-2013 - Senior Consultant - Pivotal Labs (<https://pivotal.io/labs>)
- 2009-2011 - Consultant - ThoughtWorks (<https://www.thoughtworks.com>)
- 2007-2009 - Self-taught Software Engineer - First American Title Insurance Company (<http://www.firstam.com>)

## Skills

- **Disciplines:** Software Engineering, Site Reliability Engineering
- **Languages:** Go, Ruby, SQL
- **Cloud Platforms:** Google Cloud Platform, Amazon Web Services
- **Container Orchestrators:** Kubernetes, Cloud Foundry
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Packer, BOSH

- **Continuous Integration:** Concourse, CircleCI