DANIEL ESPONDA

danielresponda@gmail.com | 214-288-7740 | Richmond, VA | github.com/desponda | linkedin.com/in/danielesponda

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Staff Site Reliability Engineer with 10+ years building large-scale CI/CD platforms and Kubernetes infrastructure. Lead SRE for Datadog's CI infrastructure processing 13M+ builds monthly, saving $7M annually. Expert in platform engineering, multi-region Kubernetes (5,000+ nodes), incident command, and cost optimization. Core Incident Commander leading enterprise-wide outage response.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Core: Kubernetes, Docker, AWS, GCP, Python, Go, Java, Terraform, GitLab, Jenkins, CI/CD Platforms
Distributed Systems: Apache Kafka, gRPC, Service Mesh (Istio, Envoy), Event-Driven Architecture, Microservices
Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog, ELK Stack, SLI/SLO/SLA, Incident Management, On-Call Operations
Security: DevSecOps, Vault, PCI, SOC 2, FedRAMP, HIPAA, Policy-as-Code

CERTIFICATIONS

CKAD - Linux Foundation, 2020 | AWS Solutions Architect - Professional | AWS Solutions Architect - Associate | AWS Developer - Associate

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Datadog — Staff Site Reliability Engineer, CI Infrastructure

Remote, US   *June 2025 - Present*

- Lead technical strategy for CI/CD platform processing 13M+ builds/month serving 1,000+ engineers globally
- Serve as Core Incident Commander for enterprise-wide outages (2023-Present), train IC team members on incident response
- Drive long-term technical roadmap for CI infrastructure evolution, capacity planning, and scaling strategies

Datadog — Senior Software Engineer, CI Infrastructure

Remote, US   *August 2022 - June 2025*

- Reduced annual CI costs from $10M to $3M (70% reduction, $7M savings) through intelligent node selection, optimization, and automated scaling
- Built ddci, custom enterprise CI system with task engine framework and smart dependency detection—adopted company-wide
- Reduced pipeline execution from 70 minutes to 7-12 minutes (90% faster) via persistent runners, Docker caching, and build impact analysis
- Optimized Gitaly for 20GB+ monorepo with 10,000+ commits/day, reducing Git clone times from 15+ minutes to <2 minutes
- Architected build impact analysis service eliminating unnecessary builds and reducing infrastructure waste by 60%+

VMware — Staff Site Reliability Engineer

Remote, TX   *November 2020 - August 2022*

- Led VMware's largest SaaS Kubernetes platform: 5,000+ nodes, 100+ clusters, 99.99%+ uptime for mission-critical workloads
- Built custom Kubernetes operators in Go automating cluster lifecycle—reduced manual operations from 40 hrs/week to <12 hrs/week

- Deployed global Istio service mesh across multi-cloud with zero-trust networking, mTLS, and circuit breaking for 300+ microservices
- Maintained PCI, HIPAA, FedRAMP compliance through automated policy enforcement (OPA) and infrastructure-as-code validation

Toyota Connected — Senior Site Reliability Engineer

Plano, TX   *October 2019 - November 2020*

- Built enterprise Kubernetes platform on AWS for 80+ teams, improving availability from 99.5% to 99.9%, reducing costs 40%
- Deployed global ELK cluster with Kafka processing 3TB/day, achieving 80% cost reduction vs commercial alternatives
- Created self-service developer platform reducing provisioning time from 3 days to 15 minutes

Capital One — Site Reliability Engineer Manager

Plano, TX   *February 2016 - October 2019*

- Managed Kubernetes platform architecture spanning AWS/GCP supporting 500+ microservices as technical lead (60% IC, 40% leadership)
- Led cloud migration of 100+ microservices from on-premise to AWS/Kubernetes, completing 3 months ahead of schedule
- Reduced incident MTTR from 2.1 hours to 52 minutes through automated runbooks and enhanced observability

Pariveda Solutions — Senior Software Engineer

Plano, TX   *August 2014 - February 2016*

- Architected automated hybrid cloud solutions using AWS, Chef, and Jenkins for enterprise clients
- Built RESTful API services for cross-platform mobile applications using Java and Spring Framework

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Dallas — B.S. Computer Science, Cum Laude, GPA: 3.92   *2013*

OPEN SOURCE & LEADERSHIP

Kubernetes 1.21 Bug Triage - CNCF Release Team Member (2021) | **Core Incident Commander** - Enterprise outage response leader (2023-Present) | **Technical Portfolio:** github.com/desponda