

# David Nesting

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Washington, DC

I am an engineering leader, with an emphasis in complex systems, resiliency, and solving problems. My superpowers include working with empathy, communicating with non-technical leaders, and adapting. I enjoy edge cases, adversarial thinking, and being hands-on. My interests range from hacking electronics to public policy.

## Qualifications

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- Can effectively lead small task forces and large product delivery teams
- Can understand, build, and troubleshoot complex systems at all layers of the stack
- Can write efficient and readable code (Go, Python, others)

Overview of security clearances available on request.

## Experience

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### Self-Employed, March 2025 - Present

- Artificial Intelligence and Software Defined Radio projects, public safety communications incident tracking, SDR orchestration on Kubernetes, AI agent workflow and orchestration
- Secure network design and deployment for a 30-unit residential building
- Guest Lecturer on Privacy Engineering for the Vanderbilt Policy Accelerator

### Expert Witness, Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), April-May 2025

- Consulted on IT modernization, cybersecurity, and privacy
- Testified as an Expert Witness at the US District Court for the Southern District of New York

### Vega-Bray Observatory Rehabilitation, March 2025

- Rehabilitated the Observatory's telescope, which had not seen light in 15 years.
- Reverse engineered the dome control system and the telescope's drive and tracking system
- Built a custom hardware control system, and wrote custom drive and tracking software.

### Office of the Federal CIO, The White House (OMB), 2024-2025

#### AI and Cybersecurity Advisor to the Federal CIO

- AI, Cybersecurity, and Technology Modernization policy and implementation advisor to the Federal CIO
- Artificial Intelligence Lead at OMB, collaborating heavily between IT, policy, records, and legal teams, built on-premise AI proofs of concept
- Technology Advisor to the OMB Chief Information Officer on AI, data, cybersecurity, and modernization
- Led a Technology Modernization Fund Discovery Sprint

## **Rebellion Defense, 2021-2023**

### **SRE and Infrastructure Team Manager**

- Ran the Site Reliability Engineering and Infrastructure team at Rebellion Defense, a startup building AI-powered defense software.
- 12 SREs and SWEs.
- Platform was based on AWS, Kubernetes, and novel infrastructure.

## **US Office of Personnel Management, 2019-2021**

### **Deputy Chief Information Officer**

- Led a mainframe modernization activity to improve OPM's resiliency against single points of failure.
- Introduced modern collaboration tools, such as Zoom and Slack, to prepare the agency for extended COVID-19 telework.
- Advised the CIO on security, risk, modern practices, resiliency, and engineering
- Led a deep dive into call center issues resulting in disastrous customer experience. Built a fully-functional, call-accepting reproduction of the call center using cloud tools in about 3 hours to disprove the belief that this was a multi-year level of effort.
- One time I had to build a Prometheus-based monitoring system from scratch in order to effectively troubleshoot a problem for which we had no visibility.
- One time I had to reverse engineer the agency's correspondence tracking system because it finally died and nobody knew how it worked and we needed the records out of it.

## **US Digital Service, The White House (OMB), 2014-2019**

### **Director of Engineering** from 2017-2019:

- Mentored a community of ~50 SREs, SWEs, and Data Engineers, supervising work assignments for 25
- Represented engineering and IT to agency and White House leadership, including to Cabinet officials
- Recruiting, speaking at round tables and conferences
- Helped build the engineering hiring process

### **Site Reliability and Security Engineer** from 2014-2019. Projects included:

- Multiple rapid response and modernization efforts, including security and availability incidents, at HHS/CMS, GSA, State, Army, DOJ, and other agencies
- Security Engineering, performing code reviews, advice on prioritization and mitigation.
- One time I wrote an ASP parser and data flow analyzer to automatically generate code fixes for thousands of vulnerabilities in a government system
- Various projects, researching and advising on security threats and capabilities of nation-state adversaries
- Built and conducted bi-monthly security training and workshops for USDS.

## **Google**

**Site Reliability Engineer** from 2007-2014 (7.5 years), on the logs infrastructure team, managing all layers of the logs infrastructure, including hardware, OS, and service, and supporting Google's legal and privacy teams. Projects included on-call, data integrity, privacy, access control, data availability, large-scale data migration, security, and hiring.

## **AT&T**

**Technical Architect** and similar roles, from 1999-2007 (8 years), as a technical lead supporting [www.att.com](http://www.att.com) and similar sites. Shifted team from a traditional production operations team to a DevOps model.

## **Texas Networking, Inc.**

**Engineer**, from 1995-1999 (approx.), as a member of the engineering staff. This was a small/startup regional ISP.

## **Education**

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Texas A&M, Computer Engineering major, 1998