Drake Thorne

Platform Engineer | DevOps | AWS & Kubernetes | Ansible & Python Automation
Haymarket, NSW | contact@drakethorne.com
drakethorne.com | linkedin.com/in/drakethorne

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming: Python, Bash, PowerShell
DevOps: Ansible, Terraform, GitHub Actions, Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, Git
Cloud & Infra: AWS (EKS, EC2, ECR, RDS, S3), Linux (Ubuntu, CentOS), Windows Server, VMware
Networking: NetBox, Cisco IOS/NX-OS, Brocade, FortiGate, Wireshark, Nginx, Apache

EXPERIENCE

NINE ENTERTAINMENT — North Sydney, NSW
Platform Engineer (Networks) Aug 2024 – Present
- Architected and deployed **NetBox** on **AWS EKS** with **Helm**, RDS/Postgres, S3, ALB ingress, and Okta SAML/Django Auth, serving as the dynamic inventory for all Ansible automation jobs across 1500+ devices.
- Developed and maintained **Ansible** automation workflows to streamline network and security operations, including ERSPAN unicast monitoring, FortiManager object webhook sync, DHCP provisioning via Infoblox, and NetBox API integration across LogicMonitor, ServiceNow, Cisco ISE, Cisco Catalyst Center, and 1Password.
- Led adoption of **Terraform** for **Cloudflare** edge infrastructure, enabling scalable, repeatable network edge deployments.
- Configured and maintained **BGP** peering between Cloudflare and internal edge routers. Managed routing for external peers, including MEGA IX, Cloudflare CNIs, and regional ISPs.
- Built production-grade, repeatable EKS microservice deployments (Netbox, AWX, Oxidized, Wiz, Image Swapper, ArgoCD, Prometheus/Grafana) using layered abstractions with YAML manifests, Helm, and **Dockerfiles**.
- Built self-hosted Docker registry on **EKS** with ECR pull-through cache.
- Optimized CI pipelines via **GitHub Actions** with Bash, Python, and YAML pre-commit hooks to enforce linting and syntax standards. Built CD pipelines to update container image tags in ECR and trigger Ansible jobs in AWX via webhooks.
- Automated **AWS RDS** lifecycle management with **Ansible**, pruning outdated dev instances and rebuilding from production snapshots. Reduced manual build times from 10 minutes to seconds (99%-time reduction).
- Developed custom **Python** lookup and filter plugins to perform dynamic data manipulation, variable transformation, and NetBox data normalization.
- Implemented centralized SSH key management by symlinking user configs to a shared Git repo and automating public key deployment to bastion networks with **Ansible**, enabling consistent and secure access to remote infrastructure.

FIN DESIGN + EFFECTS — Surry Hills, NSW
Systems Administrator Apr 2023 – Aug 2024
- Led the end-to-end implementation of a complete monitoring and telemetry stack, using **Zabbix**, **Grafana**, and **Graylog**. Developed log/metric collecting, dashboards, data pipelines, and alerting across 500+ nodes, improving system observability, and reducing incident response times.
- Developed automation for infrastructure using **Ansible** playbooks, managing Linux fleet configs, CRON jobs, and patching routines across 50+ nodes, significantly reducing manual overhead.
- Designed and implemented secure remote access systems via Duo Proxy MFA, L2TP VPNs, and hardened reverse proxy gateways using Apache and Nginx.
- Managed hybrid infrastructure spanning Windows Servers, VMware, TrueNAS, GCP, and Linux systems (Ubuntu, CentOS).
- Designed and managed Layer 2/3 Brocade and Cisco networks – VLANs, VRFs, LAGs, NAT, LACP, and static routing.
- Enforced security with ACL configurations, firewall management, and encryption scripting with **PowerShell**.

EDUCATION

MACQUARIE UNIVERSITY — North Ryde, NSW
Diploma of Information Technology, Computer Science Graduated 2022
WAM: 81.875
Awards/Societies: Macquarie Association of Computing Students (MACS), Academic Integrity Certification