Derek C. Carter
Digtal-Infrastructure-Architect

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Summary:

Linux infrastructure specialist with twenty-six years of experience in training, on-prem, or cloud computing platforms (AWS, GCP, Digital Ocean). With a training background, systems administration/architecture know-how, and course development knowledge to architect robust, scalable digital infrastructure. Focusing on core business technology: custom Linux distribution creation, systems automation and DevOps methodologies, telecommunications, systems architecture, design and training.

Experience

Unchained – Senior Software Engineer / DevOps Team Lead – May 2023 - Mar 2025

Senior DevOps Team lead and DevOps Team Manager spearheading a migration to devops workflows and principles for the entire engineering organization.

- Introduced an Request for Comments(RFC) process for formalizing engineering decisions.
- Migrated from hosted GitHub code hosting to internally hosted GitLab server.
  - Created engineering-wide CI/CD workflows for managing development, testing and deployment of microservices
  - Created internal-only CI/CD runners to ensure our code only ran on company owned hardware.
- Introduced the use of Terragrunt and multiple environments into existing terraform infrastructure, allowing for ease of deploying infrastructure into different environments.
- Created new multi-environment deployments to better separate dev, staging, and production workflows. Introduced new internal-only domains to reduce environment confusion.
- Introduced better Role Based Access Control(RBAC) backed by Terraform and terragrunt to increase security and reduce human error when creating roles or adding users to roles.
- Lead a team of two with a rotating "DevOps Residency" program to help spread devops principles through the entire engineering organization.

UserTesting – Staff Software Engineer / Ops and Infrastructure Team Lead – Mar 2021 - Mar 2023

Staff operations engineer leading a team of seven engineers supporting and maintaining a large legacy code-base. Architected a Kubernetes and Terraform based platform for microservice deployment.

- Managed team backlog and quarterly project planning, maintaining a balance between new infrastructure related projects and legacy maintenance needs while paying down technical debt
- Created best-practices for the engineering department as well as leading our DevOps and Cross-Squad Architecture Guilds
- Interfaced with the security team ensuring the company met its compliance requirements (SOC2, SOX, GDPR, and ISO27001)
- Developed tooling to improve developer experience
  - Built reusable workflows for both GitHub Actions and CircleCI, reducing the amount of CI/CD code the developer would have to create and maintain
  - Created a standardized application infrastructure to reduce the time required to deploy new microservices to non-production environments
  - Migrated a well used internal tool from Heroku to internally hosted Kubernetes, reducing cost and complexity while improving security
- Maintained legacy application infrastructure including an AWS Elastic Container Service (ECS) cluster
- Designed a new application platform based on Kubernetes using Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service – EKS

Nav – Principal Software Engineer DevOps – Aug 2017 - Feb 2021

Principal software engineer with a focus on DevOps, architected, deployed and maintained the infrastructure platform for a late-stage fintech startup. Architected and oversaw migration of a mid-sized traditional Amazon AWS infrastructure into Kubernetes hosted on AWS.

- Mitigated legacy architecture problems using automation(Ansible), security tools (HashiCorp Vault), and a systems operations background.
  - Created a tool called vault_helper[1] to ease the rotation of encryption keys of the HashiCorp Vault system.
- Built new Kubernetes platform and migrated legacy applications onto it.
  - Built architecture to allow legacy apps and new (k8s) apps to communicate as if they were on the same platform.
- Improved developer workflow processes and tooling.
  - Created company-wide engineering standards, such as a JSON logging standard, secret management and code release workflows
  - Built a "canary application" which tested and exercised all the possible features of the platform.
  - Built a centralized CI/CD pipeline system to standardize deployment pipelines. This enabled developers to focus on their application code, not deployment artifacts and scripts.
  - Migrated all infrastructure creation from an ad-hoc solution to HashiCorp Terraform. Enabling repeatable and better maintainable infrastructure.
  - Implemented RunDocs for every application, bringing operations and development closer into alignment. This also increased the resiliency for the running applications.

Goozbach Infrastructure Solutions, LLC – Linux Infrastructure Consultant and Instructor – Dec 2011 – Present

Owner and primary consultant of successful Linux consulting and training company providing Linux support and best practices consultation. Customers include RedHat training partners, Linux Foundation, Endosys, Sangoma, Local, State, Federal Government, and the Department of Defense. Customer environments range from dozens to thousands of servers.

Services provided include system updates, configuration management, installation automation, Bash and Python scripting, training delivery, training course development, Telephony Systems design and installation, and other systems administration tasks.

- Consulting customers on DevOps policies, procedures, and tools, using continuous integration (Jenkins), unit testing (Test Anything Protocol, Rspec), configuration management (Puppet, Ansible, CFengine, Salt), and installation automation (Cobbler, PXE, Kickstart)
- Maintain on-site networking infrastructure for municipal governmental agency.

Further Experience

You can find my further experience on my LinkedIn Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/goozbach/

Additional Information

- Open Source Projects:
  - GitHub[2]
  - GitLab[3]

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[1] https://gitlab.com/goozbach/vault_helper
[2] https://github.com/goozbach/
[3] https://gitlab.com/goozbach/