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Attn: Hiring Manager
Arista Networks

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Salutations,

I recently became aware of your posting for the position of *Software Engineer - Infrastructure* (from Gabriel Gonzalez's [tweet concerning the posting](https://twitter.com/GabrielG439/status/1402033436638945280) (<https://twitter.com/GabrielG439/status/1402033436638945280>)). I have long wanted to apply my interests in both declarative configuration management and functional programming to a greater extent through my employment. I feel as though this would be an ideal position for myself, and I hope you feel that I would be an ideal candidate for this position.

I presently work remotely (since 2016) with a very small and dynamic team in a highly collaborative manner on a semi-asynchronous basis. We all teach and learn from each other. There are many hats, and we share them all (not literally, of course).

I first encountered Haskell (and functional programming in general) while studying at the University of Waterloo. The shift in perspective was both mind-bending and refreshing. I decided to learn Haskell by using it for any programming assignment that didn't mandate a particular language. This led to a particularly fun (and at times stressful) week of reading through [Learn You a Haskell for Great Good!](http://learnyouahaskell.com) (<http://learnyouahaskell.com>) and implementing a Bayesian classifier.

After university, I got a job as a junior NOC technician at RackForce Networks (later acquired by [TeraGo Networks](https://terago.ca) (<https://terago.ca>)). I worked my way up through the NOC, then I moved laterally to the development department, and worked my way up there. I have (co)led several operational improvement initiatives including the proper adoption of version control, the authoring of a change management policy for development, the use of Puppet for managing all of our team's VMs, the adoption of most of the HashiCorp stack, and the use of GitLab's CI/CD pipelines.

I have been running NixOS as my sole desktop/workstation OS since late 2019. I have written derivations for some additional versions of PHP in an attempt to determine the feasibility of building our application container images with Nix.

I have recently started working through [Haskell Programming From First Principles](https://haskellbook.com) (<https://haskellbook.com>).

My career has followed my more developed technical skills (network administration, system administration, and PHP development). I am ready for a change and a challenge, and I would like to build upon my interest and fledgling skills in both Nix/NixOS and Haskell on a full-time basis.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
— Jonathan J. Thiessen