

Joaquin Casares

Platform Architecture • Large-Scale Distributed Systems • Developer Experience & Tooling • Infrastructure as Code
Backend Engineering • CI/CD & Release Engineering • Reliability & Observability Engineering • Performance Engineering
Cross-Functional Collaboration • Technical Writing & Enablement • Customer-Facing Architecture & Consulting
Apache Cassandra • Kubernetes • Python • AWS • Linux • Terraform • CircleCI • Jenkins • Go • Helm

Thrives in critical roles at early-stage startups where platform stability and cross-functional collaboration shift company momentum. Delivers reliable systems through automation, scalable architecture, and developer-focused tooling, always seeking the fastest, highest-value wins. Removes friction others tolerate, solves problems before they surface, and mentors through clear code and consistent action to help teams move faster and scale cleaner. Drives strategic iteration in clarifying ideas early, making informed decisions, and refining solutions into durable systems. Results include cutting onboarding from days to minutes, eliminating CI/CD failure rates of 56%, and reducing test runtimes by 73%, consistently leaving systems stronger than found.

Apr 2024 – Present (*1 year*) | **SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER @ WEAVERGRID** Sole engineer focused on **Developer Experience** in the 5-person **Foundations Team** as a resource for **Infrastructure, Kubernetes**, and **CircleCI** support for 30 Engineers.

- Revamp 2+ day onboarding to 40 minutes with setup automation and database access bundles before first 1:1 with manager.
- Eliminate **CircleCI** failure rate of 56%, reduce test runtimes by 73%, and lower P95 deployment duration from 36 to 11 minutes.
- Reduce **Cypress** tests from 8 to 4 minutes and reduce flakes from ~70/week to 2 every 3 weeks via orchestration and tagging.
- Enable **Redis Cluster** Mode and introduce queued deployment strategies to improve critical ingestion and deployment safety.
- Create and automate a cross-service uptime tracking **CircleCI/Cypress** project to alert on reliability gaps across Engineering.
- Independently prioritize critical work for rapid fixes, improving delivery speed and elevating team morale without PM escalation.
- Reduce local **Docker Compose** build times by 70% by optimizing caching and build orchestration to improve developer velocity.

Aug 2023 – Apr 2024 (*8 months*) | **CONSULTANT @ AXONOPS** Produce a performance comparisons and present at the AI/Cassandra Summit, co-lead four training sessions on monitoring **Apache Cassandra**, and publish developer blog posts.

Dec 2021 – Nov 2022 (*1 year*) | **SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER @ AUDIUS** Own CI/CD automation, observability, and release certification for a 119-node network (23 third-party operators) servicing 283M+ requests and 5M+ unique users monthly.

- Automate staging reservations, production deployments, **Ethereum** governance, and **Audius network** releases using **CircleCI**.
- Introduce **Prometheus** metrics and **Grafana** alerts across Slack, Discord, and PagerDuty for **Python** and **TypeScript** codebases.
- Develop first load test against staging using **Node.js** to generate **POA Network**-backed entities proportional to production.

Oct 2018 – Dec 2021 (*3 years*) | **SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT ENGINEER III @ ADOBE** Decompose the Magento order management monolith into scalable inventory-specific **Go microservices** and support legacy sourcing and config systems.

- Benchmark with **Gatling** scenarios written in **Scala**, collecting results in **Kibana** and **DataDog**, to stress Black Friday readiness.
- Document **GitOps** infrastructure and maintain **Jenkins X**, **Terraform**, **Flux**, **Helm Operator**, **AWS**, **ELK**, and **EKS** environments.
- Define **LDAP**-restricted **Vault** hierarchies and rotate strong secrets consumed by **Kubernetes** via **Sealed** and **Helm Secrets**.
- Create and maintain **Jenkinsfiles** to ensure each component passes unit, integration, and contract tests for each pull requests.
- Migrate from **DataDog** to **Prometheus/Grafana**, **ElasticSearch/Kibana** to **Splunk**, and implement Adobe compliance requests.

Aug 2016 – Oct 2018 (2 years) | **CONSULTANT @ THE LAST PICKLE** Produce runbooks and resolve client issues for **Apache Cassandra** clusters as large as 800+ nodes. TLP was headquartered in New Zealand with 13 geo-distributed employees.

- Automate actionable reports on **Cassandra**, disk, and **Linux** configurations, logs, and **data model** analysis. Still in use in 2024.
- Develop **Grafana** dashboards and alerts while providing critical support for **Cassandra** latency degradation at T-Mobile.
- Create **Docker**-validated runbooks for **Cassandra** maintenance, preventive care, troubleshooting, and **S3/EBS** backup strategies.

Jul 2015 – Aug 2016 (1 year) | **INTERNAL API ENGINEER @ UMBEL** Architect an async **Python** API backed by **Apache Cassandra** and **Dynamo** using **Volatility-Based Decomposition**, **Microservice**, **Event-Driven Design**, and **CQRS** principles.

- Increase **Celery** performance by 3x via asynchronization and **Cassandra** features while reducing **Cassandra** cluster size by 50%.
- Design and implement an **asynchronous data object** for denormalization, client retries, metrics, hydration, and transactions.
- Use **Sentry**, **Jira**, **GitLab**, **Docker Compose**, **Python nose**, and **Slack** for alerting, tracking, development, testing, and discussion.
- Kickstart Umbel Labs innovation through **big data distributed systems**, **blockchain technologies**, and **virtual reality** proposals.

Aug 2014 – Jul 2015 (1 year) | **DEMO ENGINEER @ DATASTAX** Use best practices and common use cases to develop enterprise and community facing demos for **DataStax Enterprise**. Witness 23x growth to 440 geo-distributed employees.

- Develop a full-stack demo, training, and certification platform using **Python**, **Flask**, **Jinja2**, **Bootstrap**, **Docker**, **EC2**, and **Azure**.
- Manage project scope, timeline, and deliverable for demos in cross-team efforts between Marketing, Pre-Sales, and Post-Sales.

Dec 2012 – Jul 2014 (1.7 years) | **SOFTWARE ENGINEER IN TEST @ DATASTAX** Bootstrap **Python**, **Java**, and **C++** client-driver testing harnesses for **Apache Cassandra**. Collaborate with Marketing, Documentation, Training, and Product teams.

- Train 3 engineers and 1 manager to assume ownership of **Java**, **Python**, and **.NET** client-driver testing with cloud-hosted clusters.
- Bootstrap **Python nose** and **Java TestNG** test suites for the **DataStax Drivers for Apache Cassandra** using **Jira** and **Jenkins**.
- Validate, test, and teach Automaton, the internal performance and regression tool run on hardware, **EC2**, and **RightScale**.

Jan 2011 – Jan 2013 (2 years) | **SUPPORT ENGINEER @ DATASTAX** Support **DataStax Enterprise: Apache Hadoop**, **Apache Solr**, and **DataStax Opscenter** on **Apache Cassandra**, in **AWS** and on-prem production environments. Employee #9.

- Primary support contact for 9 months across 16+ products and 200+ organizations; train 5 replacements, including manager.
- Create Knowledge Base that is used daily, as of 2024, and referenced by newly hired and established Support Engineers.
- Contribute to public wikis, design auto-clustering **Amazon Machine Image**, and publish blog posts still driving traffic in 2024.

Aug 2005 – Dec 2010 (5.5 years) | **THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

Bachelor of Arts **Computer Science**

Advanced **Digital Media Institute** Bachelor of Science **Radio-Television-Film**

BDP **Digital Arts & Media** New Media Initiative: **Advanced Communication Technologies Laboratory**

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