# Joe Rogers

Site Reliability Engineer Lead

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## Summary

Site Reliability Engineer with experience designing, building, and operating Kubernetes (EKS and on-prem) clusters at scale, ECS, ECR, Fargate, AWS, and Terraform. Hands-on in cluster build-outs, upgrades, troubleshooting, observability, and automation. Modernized platforms with Infrastructure as Code (Terraform/Ansible), container orchestration (EKS/ECS/Fargate, Docker), and CI/CD (GitLab CI, Jenkins). Cut release lead time from 1 day to 1 hour, new app spin-up from 2 weeks to 2 days, and migrated 50+ services from EC2 to ECS. Passionate about driving operational excellence, mentoring engineers, and reducing MTTR and cost.

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## Skills

- **Kubernetes & EKS:** Cluster provisioning (KOPS, Kubespray, EKSctl, Terraform), upgrades, monitoring (K9s, Grafana, Datadog), CI/CD integrations (GitLab CI, Jenkins, Atlantis), troubleshooting and remediation at scale

- **ECS & Fargate:** Production-grade orchestration of 50+ services across dev, stage, and prod; integrated with GitLab CI pipelines and observability tooling; migration from EC2 to ECS/Fargate reduced infra/tooling costs by 50%

- **AWS:** IAM, VPC, EC2, ECR, EKS, ECS, Fargate, Route53, CloudFront, ACM, multi-account governance

- **IaC & Automation:** Terraform (modules, Atlantis, GitLab CI pipelines), Ansible, Puppet

- **CI/CD:** GitLab CI, GitLab Runners, Jenkins, CodePipeline/Build/Deploy

- **Observability:** Datadog, Splunk, Prometheus, Grafana

- **Languages & Tools:** Python, Bash, VSCode, kubectl, kubectx, k9s

- **AI/LLM:** AWS Bedrock, OpenAI, Claude, Gemini, Perplexity

# Experience

## Core Digital Media – Playa Vista, CA

**Site Reliability Engineering Lead (IC-heavy role)** – *July 2021 – Present*

- Prototyped and administered EKS workloads with Terraform + GitLab CI for evaluation and training, integrating observability (Grafana, Datadog) and debugging via kubectl/k9s.

- Built reproducible sandbox environments with Terraform and Atlantis for engineers to practice Kubernetes/EKS deployments with audit/accountability.

- Delivered container orchestration workshops covering Kubernetes workloads on EKS and ECS; created Terraform-based training labs to upskill engineers.

- Drove a modernization initiative to containerize 50+ services from EC2 to ECS/Fargate, replatform CI/CD from AWS CodePipeline to GitLab CI, and migrate from self-hosted GitLab to GitLab Cloud Ultimate—reducing release lead time 95% and infra/tooling costs 50%.

- Championed AWS cost optimization (budgets, Savings Plans, RIs), consistently delivering under budget.

- Initiated deployment of automated patching using TuxCare (live kernel patching with zero reboots).

## Core Digital Media – Playa Vista, CA

**Principal System Administrator** – *Jan 2019 – July 2021*

- Architected a multi-account, multi-region AWS infrastructure hosting all production, QA, and development environments—including pilot light DR.

- Prototyped EKS workloads and CI/CD integration with Terraform and GitLab before finalizing ECS adoption path.

- Migrated 500 VMware VMs to AWS EC2, saving $2M in hardware renewal costs.

- Right-sized workloads using observability metrics, reducing AWS spend >50%.

- Migrated from Jenkins to Terraform-based AWS CI/CD (CodePipeline/Build/Deploy), increasing deployment cadence from weekly to daily.

## Lowermybills – Playa Vista, CA

**Senior System Engineer** – *Jan 2013 – Dec 2018*

- Built and operated a production-grade, bare-metal Kubernetes cluster (8 nodes: 2 masters, 6 workers) with NAS storage and Cisco 10G networking, hosting 60+

applications with Jenkins CI/CD pipelines and load testing.

- Provisioned VMware-based Kubernetes clusters on Cisco UCS using KOPS and Kubespray with Terraform/Ansible for reproducible dev/test environments.

- Delivered high-availability VMware environments with 1,000+ VMs, ensuring parallel environments matched production.

- Automated configuration of 1,000+ VMs with Ansible, standardizing security, logging (Splunk), and monitoring (Nagios).

## Experian Interactive Media – Culver City, CA

**Senior System Engineer** – *Dec 2008 – Jan 2013*

- Maintained 100% uptime during a 300-server datacenter migration.

- Deployed Red Hat Satellite patching across 300 servers with staged cycles Dev→QA→Stage→Prod.

- Consolidated DNS infrastructure to BIND 9 with zero downtime.

- Introduced Puppet for VM lifecycle management, reducing drift and manual effort.

## Time Warner Cable – Orange, CA

**System Engineer** – *Jun 2001 – Dec 2008*

- Administered large-scale Solaris and Red Hat environment supporting core services (DNS, NFS, LDAP, Sendmail).

- Developed monitoring/automation scripts reducing MTTR and preventing service disruptions.

- Contributed to disaster recovery planning and execution.

## Sun Microsystems – Santa Clara, CA

**System Administrator** – *Apr 2000 – Jun 2001*

- Managed Solaris systems and enterprise hardware across engineering environments.

- Provided operational support for dev workflows and production-like test environments.

# Education

| UCLA, Los Angeles | Electrical Engineering |