Brandon Willett

A young New-York-based developer with experience in platform dev. Always believing that any problem can be overcome with kind communication, a good sense of humor, and just persisting everything to S3.

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Education

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

- Graduated in 2018
- B.S. in Computer Science (3.82)
- B.A. in Mathematics (3.80)

Skills

BACKEND

- Go, Python, Java, Scala, Javascript
- Web Frameworks (Django, Flask, Rails)
- Streaming Pipelines (Kafka)
- Workflow Platforms (Airflow, Luigi)
- Transactional Databases (Postgres, Cass)
- Analytical Databases
- Caches (Memcached, Redis)

PLATFORM

- Version Control (Git)
- CI/CD (Github Actions, Gitlab)
- Telemetry (Prometheus, Datadog)
- Containerization (Docker, Containerd)
- Build Tools (Rake, Bazel)
- Infra as Code (CF, Terraform)
- Service Discovery (DNS, Consul, Envoy)
- Load Balancers (L4, L7)
- Reverse Proxies (NGINX, HAProxy)

CLOUD

- AWS (ALB, NLB, EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda)
- GCP (GLB, GCE, GCS, Cloud SQL)
- Azure (ALB, VMSS, ABS)
- Kubernetes (ask me about any resource)

Experience

DATADOG — *New York, NY*
Site Reliability Engineer — May 20 – Jun 23

- Planned and executed the migrations of some of Datadog's largest + most complicated services (the primary timeseries DB, the primary public LB) to Kubernetes, resulting in zero outages
- Identified 80/20 solutions in delivering delicate configuration to dozens of services simultaneously – two months of work allowed a whole team over a year of space to design a real replacement
- Initiated several projects that crossed usual team/org boundaries – harder, but we solved Datadog-wide problems where it really mattered
- Hosted architecture overview sessions, for 1-10 people, to help new hires feel empowered (instead of confused) as quickly as possible
- Acted as a consultant between infrastructure and product developers, and pushed stranded projects (like automated node rotation) to finish
- Contributed heavily to build/deployment tooling, so product developers could mostly ignore their services' 40+ Helm charts

ACTIONIQ — *New York, NY*
Distributed Systems Engineer — Jun 18 – Apr 20

- Designed, advocated for, and implemented the procedure for autoscaling query execution on EC2, reducing our AWS bill by more than 50%
- Drove scalability improvements for the OSS job scheduling platform Luigi, and contributed some of that back upstream
- Maintained the Prometheus cluster (later, Datadog) and led internal talks and workshops on best practices around metrics and observability
- Enabled dynamic configuration updates with Ansible
- Brought some of the first Terraform modules to AIQ, used them to build the first version of our streaming ingest platform using IaC

EDU.CHAT — *New York, NY*
Software Engineering Intern — Jun 17 – Aug 17

- Developed and tested an NLP chatbot alongside 3 other developers
- Learned Python implementations for message passing, parallelization and task queue systems to distribute the workload (like Celery and Redis)