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
- Streaming Pipelines (Kafka, RabbitMQ)
- DAG Pipelines (Airflow, Luigi)
- Transactional Databases (Postgres, Cass)
- Analytical / Columnar Databases
- Database Sharding
- 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)
- Reverse Proxies (NGINX, HAProxy)
- Load Balancers (L4, L7)

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 implemented the migrations of some of Datadog's largest and scariest services (the primary public-facing LB, the primary timeseries DB) to Kubernetes without incident
- Created Friends of MRE
- Identified 80/20 solutions for the delivery of some very important configuration, I did alone in 2mo to allow a whole team a year+ to design something nicer
- Reached beyond usual team boundaries to collaborate on important isolated projects when it really mattered (manifest diff, PM template, PRR)
- Hosted semi-frequent architecture overview sessions, for 1-10 people, to help enable new hires to understand meetings/etc more quickly
- Reviewed many design documents and pull requests, feedback included hard stuff like "we really just shouldn't do this"
- Acted as a consultant/liason between infra and metrics, implemented stuff like automated node rotation
- Contributed heavily to build/deployment tooling to help make managing 40+ Helm charts not a headache for the metrics devs
- Did all the usual ops stuff – worked with cloud providers for instance capacity, improved resource utilization by binpacking containers, created TF modules, ran disaster tests, got way too familiar with Kafka
- Did all the usual dev stuff – created and deployed patches, optimized database sharding, participated in on call rotation, etc

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

- Designed, advocated for, and implemented our strategy 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 & observability
- Enabled dynamic configuration and artifact discovery
- Brought some of the first Terraform modules to AIQ, used them to build the first version of our streaming ingest platform using IaC