Kirsten Ruge

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THINGS I'VE BUILT RECENTLY

For work:
- Built out a full VPC with Kubernetes and all necessary services to run a web-based application from scratch with OpenStack, Kubespray and AWX
- Full in-house MFA in Django/Python
- Terraformed every piece of infrastructure, designed and implemented a test of my disaster recovery plan, crosstrained devs on Terraform and AWS CLI
- Designed, implemented and lead a small team to assemble an ephemeral cluster of services for data ingestion in a highly private use case

Significant side projects or learning:
- **Bengy** (in progress) - A "toy" robot using an Nvidia Jetson Nano, a self-hosted LLM and conversational AI and voice to bring AAC to the next level for kids (will tell you more about this one if you ask).
- **Validator Node** - I am hosting my own Cosmos validator node at home, results TBD on this one!
- **MiniMail** - a "minimal" mail server on k3s for self-hosted
- **DogDetector** - a fun application running on a WiFi surveillance camera to detect dog breeds from a distance and SMS notify the user on custom parameters. I did this to learn to use AWS kinesis video streams and SageMaker, and ended up learning quite a bit of C++ in the process.
- Multiple fullstack Node/Typescript applications using the OpenAI, Anthropic and ElevenLabs APIs, including ones chaining them together.
- Open source - I am actively working on Prometheus, flipt and the SWE project
- Most recent new language: Rust

WORK EXPERIENCE

09/2023 – present Minneapolis, United States	**Cloud Architect & Python Developer** **CirrusNorth** Started a consulting business with former coworkers/managers from several companies offering both full from-scratch infrastructure and fractional DevOps support consulting for startups. Currently on a contract helping a brand new startup implement the required codebase changes infrastructure and application code to pass their first SOC2 before moving into a staff python developer role to support their growth phase.
07/2024 – 09/2024 UK	**Lead DevOps Engineer** **Asset Reality** • Spearheaded platform and infrastructure development for a growing crypto asset seizure platform • Developed modern Terraform modules and managed live infrastructure repositories • Automated new environment deployments and documented disaster recovery procedures • Improved developer experience and cross-trained team in Terraform and AWS CLI • Contributed to backend services in Golang, integrating with BTC and ETH SDKs
06/2024 – 08/2024	**Staff Software Engineer (TypeScript)** **Lifeshack** • Joined as a versatile software engineer for a new AI job-search tool • Fixed numerous frontend bugs using TypeScript • Extended the existing codebase to integrate with additional job boards • Participated in marketing and fundraising strategy meetings

WORK EXPERIENCE

07/2023 – 05/2024

Senior DevOps Engineer
Scuba Analytics
- Supported a managed business analytics platform with C++ and Python backend
- Developed tooling for production deployments and guided SREs through Terraform
- Led infrastructure design and build-out of new ML service offering
- Implemented self-managed Kubernetes with Helm and ArgoCD for configuration management

05/2022 – 07/2023

Senior Platform and Infrastructure Engineer
Rally Health/Optum
- Managed production and dev Kubernetes platforms on EKS (AWS)
- Implemented Infrastructure as Code using Terraform and Ansible
- Designed advanced networking solutions and performed AWS administration
- Overhauled monitoring and alerting systems for 25+ production and 50+ development Kubernetes clusters
- Refined and executed Kubernetes upgrade and Linux patching processes

05/2020 – 06/2022

DevOps Engineer
Bind/Surest
- Developed and supported production and development environments in ECS and EC2
- Extensive work with Terraform, IAM/identity management, and Kafka
- Led automation of CVE management and Linux server patching

01/2019 – 05/2020

Software Engineer
Kipsu
- Full-stack software development using PHP
- Led major infrastructure projects, including building separate self-contained infrastructure for international clients
- Automated production deployment with Jenkins
- Mentored junior developers and handled Linux server maintenance

01/2017 – 08/2018

Automation Engineer
RedBrick Health
- Automated file QA and operational tasks using Python and Java
- Developed a new QA framework using Spring
- Created and maintained Jenkins pipelines
- Developed internal tools for day-to-day operations using C#/.NET

EDUCATION

2004 – 2008
Stony Brook, United States

Evolutionary Biology and Ecology | B.S.
Stony Brook University
B.S. in Evolutionary Biology

2016 – 2016
Minneapolis

The Software Guild
Java Bootcamp