

InfraThrone Elite – Warm-Up Pack

Purpose: Get the brain into “production thinking” mode before we even start the syllabus.

Format: Deep-reading, hands-on drills, and thought experiments.

1. Elite-Level Reading & Watching

- [SRE Book \(Ch. 12–15\)](#) – Google’s Incident Response, Postmortems, and Reliability trade-offs.
 - [Kelsey Hightower’s “Kubernetes The Hard Way”](#) – Build a cluster without a single helper tool.
 - [Netflix Tech Blog – Failure Injection Testing at Scale](#)
 - [GitHub Engineering – Scaling Monorepos & CI/CD](#)
 - [YouTube – Liz Rice’s “Containers from Scratch”](#)
 - [Cloudflare Outage RCAs](#) – Read 3 RCAs and note common patterns.
-

2. Pre-Bootcamp Hands-On “Muscle Memory” Drills

Small but high-impact tasks that sharpen troubleshooting instincts.

Linux

- Build a custom kernel with a specific driver disabled.
- Corrupt /etc/fstab and recover from a rescue shell.
- Identify the top 5 syscalls used by nginx with strace.

Networking

- Debug asymmetric routing with tcpdump on both ends.
- Create a controlled packet loss test using tc netem.
- Implement an iptables rate-limiting rule without dropping legit traffic.

Containers & K8s

- Create a pod that fails liveness but passes readiness, and explain the implications.
 - Deploy a service without a selector and still route traffic to pods.
 - Set up kube-proxy in IPVS mode and compare vs iptables mode.
-

3. Environment Prep

- **Local Tooling:** kubectl, k9s, helm, terraform, ansible, trivy, stern, jq, yq, dive, kpt.
 - **3-Node K8s Cluster:** Kind/k3d/Minikube with working Ingress and persistent storage.
-

Saurav Chaudhary

Senior DevOps Consultant • Infra Architect • Mentor • War Room Specialist

