

Jason Ziemba

Principal DevSecOps Engineer | Kubernetes, GitOps & IaC Specialist | Active Top Secret Clearance

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Summary

Principal DevSecOps/SRE Engineer with 15+ years automating secure, scalable Kubernetes, GitOps, and Infrastructure-as-Code platforms across federal and enterprise environments. Proven track record modernizing legacy systems into resilient, cloud-native infrastructure while improving reliability and operational efficiency with additional hands-on experience in self-hosted AI/agent infrastructure through an independently built platform.

Education

25+ years of hands-on technical experience in systems engineering, DevOps, and cloud infrastructure in lieu of formal degree (see Experience)

Certifications

Sec+ 08/2023 (Exp 08/2029)
CompTIA

Clearance

Top Secret

Skills

Platforms & Orchestration: Kubernetes (Rancher RKE2, AWS EKS), Docker, Helm, Istio, Argo CD, Harbor

IaC & Configuration Management: Terraform, Chef, SaltStack

CI/CD: GitLab CI/CD, Gitea Actions (concepts transfer directly to GitHub Actions)

Languages: Perl, Go, Python, PHP

Data & Deployment: Talend (ETL), ETL Frameworks, Blue/Green Deployments

Observability: Prometheus, Grafana

Security & Compliance: AWS Security Hub, Wazuh (SIEM), STIG/CVE remediation, ATO compliance support

Projects

Enterprise Infrastructure Platform (2015–Present)

Long-running personal infrastructure lab, evolved from an early Docker/Rancher pivot into a full GitOps-driven Kubernetes platform – most recently expanded to include self-hosted AI/agent infrastructure, providing hands-on AI experience unavailable in current role due to federal AI-tooling restrictions.

- Designed, deployed, and currently maintain a Proxmox virtualization platform hosting identity, management, database, and supporting infrastructure services.
- Designed and implemented a GitOps software delivery pipeline using Gitea, Harbor, Argo CD, and Kustomize to automate container builds, image publishing, Infrastructure-as-Code, and production deployments, leveraging multi-stage builds to produce minimal, hardened production runtime images.
- Built and maintain a 3-node bare-metal Kubernetes cluster alongside a 2-node Docker/Portainer environment, using Istio for ingress and service networking, Longhorn and NFS for persistent storage, and declarative manifests managed through Git via Argo CD.
- Developed and operate a self-hosted infrastructure platform integrating local AI services including Ollama, LiteLLM, ComfyUI, OpenWebUI, and Hermes, providing local LLM inference, unified model routing, and autonomous AI agent capabilities.
- Apply AI-assisted development practices ("vibe coding") to accelerate platform delivery, iterate on infrastructure changes, and maintain 80+ self-hosted services across the environment.
- Deployed Authentik as a centralized identity provider implementing OIDC-based Single Sign-On (SSO) and centralized authentication across internally hosted applications and reverse-proxy infrastructure.

Experience

RAFT

Principal DevSecOps Engineer

Remote
December 2022 - Present*Continuation of the same federal platform program following a change in prime contractor*

- Manage Rancher-based Kubernetes clusters using CI/CD pipelines and Infrastructure as Code (Terraform + GitLab), automating provisioning and ongoing updates across federal cloud environments and eliminating manual configuration drift.
- Delivered production Kubernetes platform automation across four architecture iterations — including migrating and consolidating from ~80 RKE2 clusters to a streamlined 10–15 EKS cluster footprint — adapting to evolving mission requirements.
- Deployed and maintain BigBang (Platform One) to provide streamlined package deployment and updates throughout 10+ Kubernetes clusters.
- Monitor AWS Security Hub for STIG and CVE compliance findings across AMI builds and cluster workloads; remediate through configuration and image-build adjustments to maintain ATO posture.

Omni Federal

Senior DevOps Engineer

Remote
July 2021 - December 2022

- Enhanced multiple Kubernetes operators written in Go across an ~80-cluster RKE2 (Rancher) environment, reducing manual intervention and improving operational reliability for platform users.
- Optimized automated deployment processes on Rancher-managed Kubernetes clusters running on Docker, integrating with GitLab CI/CD pipelines to keep resource usage at optimal levels.
- Developed a Helm chart processing pipeline that generated artifact checklists, replacing manual verification steps and enabling consistent, repeatable air-gapped deployments.

E*Trade/Morgan Stanley

Principal System Engineer

Alpharetta, GA
July 2019 - July 2021

- Converted legacy scripts into containerized Docker images, improving portability and operational management across oVirt and VMware virtualization environments.
- Managed and enhanced legacy Perl scripts generating Anti-Affinity reports for the oVirt environment, supporting efficient resource placement decisions.
- Rewrote legacy Perl scripts, cutting runtime from over an hour to under 5 minutes.
- Developed Perl and Python scripts, scheduled via Cron, to aggregate Prometheus monitoring data, establish baselines, and detect anomalous behavior.

Healthgrades / RVO Health

ETL/Data Consultant

Atlanta, GA
July 2019 – July 2024 (concurrent with full-time roles)

- Designed and built a custom ETL framework that automatically detected schemas from emailed reports, validated against database schemas, and suggested improvements prior to ingestion.
- Developed one-off Talend jobs for data aggregation and comparison exercises.
- Developed custom web UIs and forms for internal data management.
- Reverse-engineered vendor web systems lacking APIs to enable automated data acquisition and processing.

Cardlytics

Senior Site Reliability Engineer

Atlanta, GA
July 2017 – July 2019

- Deployed Rancher as a unified control plane for multiple Kubernetes clusters across diverse environments.
- Engineered automated cluster bootstrap workflows using Ansible and custom automation scripts, standardizing Rancher/Kubernetes provisioning across diverse environments.
- Developed Go scripts to query multiple Active Directory trees and generate consolidated daily compliance reports.

The Weather Company, an IBM Business

Atlanta, GA

Senior Cloud Application Engineer

March 2014 – July 2017

- Managed 200+ EC2 instances globally, supporting Forecast on Demand and Currents on Demand services for The Weather Channel platforms and global partners.
- Leveraged Terraform, Chef, and custom scripts to automate environment provisioning and enable blue/green deployments.
- Designed and developed monitoring and web UI systems that facilitated blue/green deployments and enabled seamless replacement of failing instances without downtime.
- Built bootstrapping and provisioning systems that allowed problematic servers to be removed from production stacks with zero disruption.

The Weather Channel

Atlanta, GA

Senior Application Engineer

May 2007 – March 2014

- Designed and developed a Java/JSP web portal that centralized day-to-day operations for multiple departments.
- Built a Perl-based multi-threaded job scheduler coordinating 450+ scheduled tasks (Perl, Shell, and Talend jobs) across 4 workflow environments.
- Developed a Perl-based multi-threaded framework to coordinate execution of 200+ business rule enforcement and alerting modules.
- Led an Agile team in retooling the core ETL framework during migration to a new ad delivery vendor; delivered on time with zero disruption to back-office operations.
- Engineered a global Tinc VPN mesh and deployed Couchbase to create a distributed metrics ring, enabling centralized Zabbix monitoring across 5 AWS regions.
- Built Java and Perl scripts to load over 2 terabytes of processed data into a cloud-hosted Riak cluster.