Derek C. Carter
Platform Engineering Leader
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Technical Trainer
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Summary:

Platform Engineering Leader with 15+ years building Internal Developer Platforms that accelerate software delivery and reduce cognitive load for development teams. Expert in designing golden paths, implementing developer self-service capabilities, and cloud cost optimization strategies. Proven track record leading platform transformations across diverse industries, including comprehensive training programs that drive platform adoption. Experience spans startups to Fortune 500 companies, successfully serving development teams ranging from 8 to 50+ engineers.

Technical Skills

Platform Engineering & Developer Experience

Internal Developer Platforms • Developer Self-Service • Golden Paths • Platform Orchestration

Cloud Infrastructure & Automation

Amazon Web Services (AWS) • Google Cloud Platform (GCP) • Microsoft Azure • Digital Ocean • Cloud Cost Optimization

Kubernetes • Docker • Helm • Terraform • Terragrunt • Infrastructure as Code

CI/CD & GitOps

GitLab Pipelines • GitHub Actions • ArgoCD • Jenkins • CircleCI • Git

Configuration Management & Automation

Ansible • Packer • Puppet • Salt • Linux Infrastructure Automation

Systems Administration, Security, & Compliance

Linux Infrastructure Automation • System Administration • Linux distro customization

Bash Scripting • Python • Network Automation • Telephony Systems (Asterisk)

HashiCorp Vault • Compliance (SOC2, SOX, GDPR, ISO27001)

CoreOS • Ubuntu • RHEL • Fedora • Debian

Training & Education

Courseware Creation • Digital Classroom Infrastructure • Training Delivery (Virtual & In-Person)

Experience

VidAngel (https://www.vidangel.com/) – DevOps Engineer – Jun 2025 - Feb 2026

DevOps Engineer focused on cloud infrastructure automation, developer platform improvements, and CI/CD pipeline optimization for a streaming media company.

- Architected and implemented GitLab CI/CD pipeline modernization, introducing Infrastructure as Code practices and pre-compilation workflows, improving deployment reliability.

- Automated HashiCorp Vault secret management through Terraform Infrastructure as Code, enabling auditable configuration management and reducing manual vault operations.
- Designed and implemented automated Amazon Machine Image (AMI) baking pipeline using Packer, replacing manual processes and standardizing base images across development, staging, and production environments.

Unchained (https://www.unchained.com/) – Senior Software Engineer / DevOps Team Lead – May 2023 - Mar 2025

Senior DevOps Team Lead and Engineering Manager leading platform transformation and cloud infrastructure modernization for cryptocurrency/blockchain technology company with 50+ engineering team members.

- Established Request for Comments (RFC) process for engineering architecture decisions, improving cross-team collaboration and reducing technical debt.
- Led GitLab Enterprise migration from hosted GitHub, implementing self-hosted GitLab server with enhanced security controls.
  - Architected enterprise-wide deployment platform with standardized CI/CD pipelines, supporting 30+ services across multiple environments and enabling developer self-service capabilities.
  - Implemented private GitLab CI/CD runners on company-owned infrastructure, ensuring code security compliance and reducing third-party dependencies.
- Enhanced Terraform Infrastructure as Code with Terragrunt multi-environment architecture, enabling consistent infrastructure deployment across development, staging, and production environments.
- Designed and deployed multi-environment cloud architecture with environment-specific internal domains, reducing deployment errors and improving developer experience.
- Implemented Role Based Access Control (RBAC) system using Terraform and Terragrunt automation, strengthening security posture and reducing manual access management overhead.
- Managed team of 2 DevOps engineers and established rotating "DevOps Residency Program" to embed DevOps practices across 8 development teams, improving deployment frequency.

UserTesting (https://www.usertesting.com/) – Staff Software Engineer / Ops and Infrastructure Team Lead – Mar 2021 - Mar 2023

Staff Site Reliability Engineer leading 7-person infrastructure team supporting enterprise-scale user experience platform serving millions of monthly active users. Architected Kubernetes-based microservices platform and cloud migration strategy.

- Led agile team management and quarterly OKR planning for infrastructure engineering team, balancing technical debt reduction with new feature delivery across 100+ microservices architecture.
- Established engineering best practices and led DevOps Guild and Cross-Squad Architecture Guild, standardizing deployment practices across 15 development teams.
- Ensured enterprise security compliance (SOC2, SOX, GDPR, ISO27001) through infrastructure automation and security tooling implementation, maintaining compliance audits.
- Enhanced developer experience through platform engineering initiatives:
  - Developed reusable GitHub Actions and CircleCI pipeline templates, reducing CI/CD setup time for new microservices.
  - Created standardized Infrastructure as Code templates for rapid microservice deployment, reducing time-to-production.
  - Migrated critical internal applications from Heroku to self-managed Kubernetes infrastructure, reducing operational costs while improving security posture.
- Maintained and optimized AWS Elastic Container Service (ECS) legacy infrastructure supporting high-availability production workloads.
- Architected modern container orchestration platform using Amazon Elastic Kubernetes Service (EKS), Terraform Infrastructure as Code, and GitOps deployment methodology.

Nav (https://nav.com/) – Principal Software Engineer DevOps – Aug 2017 - Feb 2021

Principal software engineer with a focus on DevOps and platform engineering. Architected, deployed and maintained the developer platform and infrastructure for a late-stage fintech startup. Led platform transformation migrating traditional Amazon AWS infrastructure to Kubernetes-based developer platform.

- Mitigated legacy architecture problems using automation(Ansible), security tools (HashiCorp Vault), and a systems operations background.
  - Created a tool called vault_helper (https://gitlab.com/goozbach/vault_helper) to ease the rotation of encryption keys of the HashiCorp Vault system.
- Built new Kubernetes platform and migrated legacy applications onto it.
  - Built architecture to allow legacy apps and new (k8s) apps to communicate as if they were on the same platform.
- Improved developer workflow processes and tooling.
  - Created company-wide engineering standards, such as a JSON logging standard, secret management and code release workflows
  - Built a "canary application" which tested and exercised all the possible features of the platform.
  - Built a centralized CI/CD pipeline platform to standardize deployment workflows. This enabled developers to focus on their application code through self-service deployment capabilities, reducing cognitive load and deployment friction.
  - Migrated all infrastructure creation from an ad-hoc solution to HashiCorp Terraform. Enabling repeatable and better maintainable infrastructure.
  - Implemented RunDocs for every application, bringing operations and development closer into alignment. This also increased the resiliency for the running applications.

Goozbach Infrastructure Solutions, LLC (https://goozbach.com/) – Linux Infrastructure Consultant and Instructor – Dec 2011 – Present

Owner and primary consultant of Linux consulting and training company providing Linux support and best practices consultation. Customers include RedHat training partners, Linux Foundation, Endosys, Sangoma, Local, State, Federal Government, and the Department of Defense. Customer environments range from dozens to thousands of servers.

Services provided include system updates, configuration management, installation automation, Bash and Python scripting, training delivery, training course development, Telephony Systems design and installation, and other systems administration tasks.

- Consulting customers on DevOps policies, procedures, and platform engineering tools, using continuous integration (Jenkins), unit testing (Test Anything Protocol, Rspec), configuration management (Puppet, Ansible, Salt), and installation automation (PXE, Kickstart)
- Infrastructure consulting for security startup in stealth mode
- Linux distro customization for client in telephony space.
- Created Linux Courseware and virtual/hybrid classroom infrastructure.

Further Experience

Find the remainder of my experience on LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/goozbach/