

Gerard Ceraso

[GC]

Platform Engineering Leader · Cloud Infrastructure · Kubernetes

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SUMMARY

20+ years in technology, with the last 15 focused on cloud infrastructure and platform engineering. Deep expertise in multi-cluster Kubernetes, infrastructure-as-code, and observability across AWS and GCP. Recent work includes a 46–62% projected compute reduction at Buoy, a 5x performance improvement migrating Ticket Evolution to Kubernetes, and PCI-compliant infrastructure at 12,000-node scale at Reliant Security.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Cloud Platforms AWS · GCP · Multi-account · Cross-cloud networking

Orchestration Kubernetes · EKS · Karpenter · KEDA · Helm · ArgoCD

Infrastructure as Code Terraform · Terragrunt · GitOps · Steampipe

Observability Prometheus · Grafana · Loki · Datadog · CloudWatch

Security & Compliance IRSA · IAM · WAF · GuardDuty · Wazuh · SOC2 · PCI · GDPR

Data Platform DataHub · Dagster · Airbyte · BigQuery · PostgreSQL · Aurora · DMS

Leadership Team management · Mentorship · Incident response · Runbook standards

EXPERIENCE

Buoy Software · *Engineering Manager, DevOps* 2024 – Present

- Designed and operate multi-cluster EKS platform across CI/CD, non-prod, and production, managed declaratively through Terragrunt and ArgoCD with GitOps overlay patterns to eliminate configuration drift.
- Stabilized a 160-node production cluster by diagnosing a Karpenter memory leak through longitudinal Grafana cache analysis; authored cluster-wide upgrade plan.
- Led compute cost program projecting 46–62% reduction via Graviton/ARM64 migration, workload right-sizing, and AWS Savings Plan modeling.
- Built organization-wide observability platform on Prometheus and Loki; authored dashboards for CI/CD economics, GitOps sync health, and resource right-sizing.
- Architected zero-downtime PostgreSQL migration via AWS DMS Change Data Capture, fully codified in Terraform for repeatable deployment.
- Designed cross-account IAM architecture using IRSA with least-privilege spoke roles; routed GuardDuty findings to Wazuh SIEM.
- Enforced infrastructure-as-code governance by building a continuous reconciliation system with Steampipe and Argo CronWorkflows that flags any AWS resource not represented in Terraform, ensuring nothing exists in production without being declared in code.
- Deployed DataHub for data discovery and governance across Dagster, Airbyte, and BigQuery.

Well · *Senior DevOps Engineer* 2023 – 2024

- Rebuilt Terraform into modular, reusable architecture across GCP and AWS, accelerating deployments and eliminating cross-team duplication.
- Designed site-to-site VPN tunnels between GCP and AWS, enabling secure cross-cloud workload communication.

- Consolidated GitLab CI pipelines across cross-functional teams, reducing build complexity and standardizing deployments.
- Cut Datadog spend by reducing noisy logs and metrics ingestion while improving incident signal-to-noise ratio.

Guideline · *DevOps Manager*

2022 – 2023

- Established Terraform as the IaC foundation across GCP, centralizing monitoring and logging alongside it.
- Designed data pipelines for engineering and science teams using BigQuery, Datastream, Fivetran, and Looker.
- Rationalized CI/CD tooling across GoCD, Bamboo, and CircleCI, improving pipeline reliability and standardizing deployment practices.
- Modernized Kubernetes clusters by removing Dockershim and deprecated components to align with current standards.
- Standardized Helm chart development with DRY principles, improving consistency across deployments.
- Performed monolith database split, improving performance and reducing disaster recovery time.

Brace · *Senior DevOps Engineer*

2021 – 2022

- Containerized new and existing applications on Kubernetes, establishing standards for resource configuration and deployment patterns.
- Managed multiple AWS accounts end-to-end with Terraform, developing reusable modules to enforce consistency across environments.
- Partnered with CISO to strengthen security posture, meeting and exceeding SOC2 requirements.
- Upgraded EKS clusters with zero-downtime node group rotation, establishing repeatable lifecycle management.
- Architected ETL pipelines and data management improvements for engineering and data teams.

CultureIQ · *Lead DevOps Engineer*

2020 – 2021

- Owned IaC with Terraform, including automated deployment pipelines with approval gates and environment promotion controls.
- Decomposed multi-language monolith into containerized multi-service architecture on Fargate and Kubernetes.
- Implemented CI/CD pipelines using Drone and Jsonnet to maintain DRY configurations.
- Developed centralized logging and monitoring using Datadog, InfluxDB, and Telegraf.
- Ensured infrastructure processes exceeded SOC2 and GDPR compliance standards.

Ticket Evolution · *Lead DevOps Engineer*

2018 – 2020

- Migrated entire infrastructure from bare-metal datacenter to containerized Kubernetes in AWS with minimal downtime, improving performance 5x.
- Built and maintained autoscaling Kubernetes clusters serving a \$20B API marketplace at 200+ req/sec.
- Built continuous deployment system enabling developers to deploy, monitor, and rollback releases via Slack and CLI.
- Migrated large PostgreSQL database from standalone to Aurora RDS using DMS with minimal downtime.
- Implemented full-stack observability using Grafana, Graphite, Prometheus, Datadog, and CloudWatch.
- Leveraged Kong as ingress controller for granular traffic routing, removing bottlenecks without code changes.

CoachCare · *Lead DevOps Engineer*

2016 – 2018

- Built scalable infrastructure supporting 100k active users across hybrid Node.js and PHP platform.
- Provisioned and managed AWS infrastructure with reserved instance planning to reduce costs.
- Migrated PostgreSQL to RDS and implemented RabbitMQ and Redis for queuing and token storage.

- Established containerized infrastructure foundation using Kubernetes and Docker, enabling cloud-native deployments.
- Built CI/CD pipelines using CircleCI with NewRelic and Sumo Logic monitoring.

Reliant Security

2009 – 2016

Director of DevOps (2014 – 2016) · **Senior DevOps Engineer** (2011 – 2014) · **Security Engineer** (2009 – 2011)

Joined as one of the first employees doing security engineering; grew through automation-heavy roles into DevOps leadership as the platform scaled from startup to enterprise.

- Scaled infrastructure to manage over 12,000 production nodes.
- Technical lead for designing and deploying Reliant's Debian-based security and virtualization platform.
- Designed and implemented PCI-compliant AWS environments using private VPCs.
- Assisted clients with PCI and SOX audits and developed remediation plans.
- Consolidated virtualization across KVM/QEMU, OpenVZ, and VMware to reduce datacenter footprint.
- Onboarded and mentored engineers across multiple levels as the team grew alongside the platform.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Qwikker · *Senior Systems Administrator*

2008

Designed infrastructure managing 20,000+ Mobile Content Servers. Led datacenter migration and established Follow-the-Sun 24x7 support model.

WebMD · *Systems Engineer*

2007 – 2008

Lead administrator for Medscape Mail (30,000+ doctors). Migrated from Sun Solaris to distributed RHEL platform and implemented MySQL Cluster for HA.

IGXGlobal · *Systems Security Engineer*

2005 – 2007

Lead datacenter administrator. Redesigned web server infrastructure for HA, implemented Nagios monitoring, and managed firewall and SSL VPN security.

CERTIFICATIONS

CISSP Certified Information Systems Security Professional · *Active since 2010*