

Nicholas Stanley

Platform Engineer

Engineer with 9 years of experience around DevOps, SRE, Linux, Automation, CI/CD, and Cloud Technologies.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Backstop Solutions Group

Backstop Solutions Group is a Software-as-a-Service company, providing solutions to hedge funds, funds-of-funds, endowments, pension funds and other institutional investors. In 2022 Backstop was acquired by Ion Analytics, resulting in the DevOps team becoming part of the Ion Platform team in 2022.

Senior Platform Engineer

Jan 2022 - Present

- Platform lead on the Oracle to Postgres migration project.
- Managed efforts around migrating Backstop to Ion Analytics Systems.
- Participating in business continuity planning to ensure core business functions.
- Conducting security and compliance reviews; Implementing necessary remediations.
- Automated the upgrade, backup and restore validation process for Artifactory, Gitlab, and Jenkins, resulting in decreasing hands-on-keyboard from 1 - 2 hours to 15 - 20 minutes per system.
- Moved Jenkins' agents from static instances to dynamic ec2 instances resulting in cost savings.
- Automated container, source code, vulnerability, and license scanning/alerting using Python, Lacework, and Veracode.
- Experience working with Centos, Rocky Linux, Ubuntu and Alma Linux.

Senior DevOps Engineer

Oct 2020 - Dec 2022

- Migrated legacy Ruby-on-Rail webapps to Python Flask and Django applications.
- Developing custom Jira, Jenkins, and GitLab integrations to enforce compliance checks, security standards, and development procedures using Bash, Groovy, and Python.
- Led the DevOps hiring process; designed coding challenges and interview process.
- Analyzing cloud expenses with AWS Cost Explorer and allocation tags, identifying reservations and savings plans.
- Responsible for the container orchestration system utilizing Nomad, Consul, Vault, and Nginx.
- Contributed to disaster recovery planning, implementation, and testing efforts.
- Led migration of testing systems from persistence model to an On-Demand model, boosting productivity, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness.
- Introduced Jenkins Shared Libraries to reduce duplication of code and standardized builds.
- Enhanced the docker image build process by pre-installing common base images and dependency caches onto Jenkins agents, leading to decreases in build times.

DevOps Engineer

Jun 2019 - Sep 2020

- Part of a team wide effort to decompose an internal monolithic app into microservices.
- Introduced AWS CLI and IAM roles to Jenkins Infrastructure to automate tasks.
- Provisioning of AWS service resources including EC2, VPC, EBS, AMI, S3 buckets.
- Developed PowerShell scripts for Windows automation.
- General administration for essential systems namely JFrog Artifactory, GitLab, Jenkins, and Atlassian Jira.
- Experience in using CloudWatch, Nagios, Splunk, Pagerduty and Grafana for logging, monitoring, and alerting.
- Chat noise ... I mean ChatOps

Discovery Education

Discovery Education partnered with Discovery Communications provides digital curriculum resources for classrooms worldwide with digital textbooks and multimedia content.

Systems Engineer

Aug 2015 - Jun 2019

- Part of the team that created an AWS Disaster recovery using Terraform, EC2, RDS, and Puppet.
- Managed Puppet infrastructure through major version upgrades.
- Monitoring and Alerting SME;
- Maintained the SDLCs for Coldfusion/Lucee and Flask web applications.
- Created Dockerfiles and docker-compose files for application containerization.
- Supported effort to migrate Adobe Coldfusion applications to Lucee based Docker images.
- Supported content publishing pipeline using S3, Handbrake, Gluster, and Cyberduck.

Infrastructure Intern

Summer 2015

- General Linux administration on 500+ nodes in three geographic regions.
- Automated and parallelized deployments using Python-Fabric and Jenkins.
- Migrated Gluster volumes to AWS S3 using AWS Snowball.

EDUCATION

DePaul University

Master of Science - Software Engineering

2016 - 2019

Bachelor of Science - Computer Science

2012 - 2016

Adjunct Instructor

2020 - 2021

Taught computer science courses, using the Python programming language, focusing on objects, recursion, exception handling, runtime analysis, web crawling and GUIs. This was my covid hobby.

Course Tutor Graduate Assistant

2016 - 2019

Tutored undergraduate and graduate students in Java and Python syntax and structure, Introduction into Computer Science, Data Structures, Algorithms, Object Oriented Design Patterns, SQL, and Bash.

PROJECTS

Local Jenkins

For personal projects, I need CI/CD. While GitHub Workflows is an option, I prefer to keep some repos private which would incur a cost. To avoid this I created this local Jenkins setup.

<https://github.com/nickstanley574/local-jenkins>

Continuous Delivery Pipeline Demo

Continuous Delivery demo focusing on demonstrating different steps in a Continuous Delivery Pipeline for a very basic flask application.

<https://github.com/nickstanley574/Continuous-Delivery-Pipeline-Demo>

Blog Post - Don't Trust Your Clipboard

Exposes hidden dangers of copying and pasting code from the internet, demonstrating techniques that could lead to arbitrary code execution and potential security breaches.

<https://nickstanley574.github.io/blog/2023/05/01/dont-trust-your-clipboard>