CHRIS COUSIN

Exec DevSecFinOps Engineering Leader | Product Development | Strategy | Tech Geek

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SUMMARY

Visionary and results-oriented Senior Engineering Leader with 15+ years of experience building, scaling, and optimizing global infrastructure and SRE organizations. Proven ability to define and execute technical strategies, drive operational excellence for high-availability systems, and significantly reduce cloud spend while scaling for millions of users. Adept at fostering high-performing, globally distributed teams, championing cloud-native architectures, and aligning engineering initiatives with critical business objectives. Seeking to leverage deep expertise in infrastructure design, FinOps, Product Engineer, and team leadership to drive your next phase of innovation and scale

EXPERIENCE

Sr Director of Engineering

fabric.inc

📅 10/2024 - Present   📍 San Francisco, CA

- **Led diverse global engineering teams** (architecture, SRE, QE, security) while **owning FinOps, reducing COGs by over 20%** and aligning budgets with company ARR
- **Drove strategic alignment across senior leadership**, reducing missed goals by 25% through improved task management and close collaboration with product
- **Engineered migration to a multi-region active-active platform**, achieving 99.99% SLA and enhancing customer support efficiencies by reducing response times and support requests
- **Established robust engineering governance**, including an architectural review board, optimized incident management workflows, and a centralized automated testing platform
- **Enhanced observability and cost efficiency** by scoping a migration to Grafana Cloud, leveraging open-source technologies and best practices

Sr Director of Site Reliability Engineering

Uplight

📅 08/2021 - 09/2024   📍 Boulder, CO

- **Provided strategic leadership to and grew a global SRE organization**, scaling infrastructure to support over 3 million devices while achieving a **$2M+ (40%) annual reduction in cloud spending**
- **Drove significant infrastructure scaling (10x)** through advanced techniques like HPA and database optimization, concurrently launching an ArgoCD delivery platform that **doubled deployment frequency across 19 global environments**
- **Enhanced operational excellence and developer empowerment** by implementing foundational standards, golden paths, an architectural review board, and self-service initiatives to improve release reliability
- **Successfully managed complex infrastructure transitions during M&A activities**, ensuring seamless integration and continued platform stability
- **Cultivated talent and aligned engineering efforts with business growth** by actively mentoring engineers and managers and coordinating team roadmaps with company-wide strategic priorities

Sr Site Reliability Engineering Manager

Everbridge

📅 04/2018 - 08/2021   📍 Pasadena, CA

- **Led and scaled a global team of 12+ remote engineers**, directly contributing to the success of a **$40M+ ARR product vertical** through infrastructure excellence
- **Spearheaded the successful launch and transition of 50+ microservices to a Kubernetes Delivery Platform**, demonstrating expertise in modern cloud-native architectures
- **Fostered a strong DevOps culture**, implementing critical production readiness best practices and ensuring compliance with **FedRamp and ISO 27001 certifications** for robust security and governance
- **Drove team cohesion and productivity** by implementing Agile workflows, establishing an SRE internship program, and organizing professional development activities

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

💲 **Cost Optimization and Business Alignment**
Led initiatives that resulted in a $2M+ (40%) annual reduction in cloud spending and a 20%+ reduction in COGs by owning FinOps and aligning budget with company ARR

💎 **Scaled infra for massive global usage**
Successfully scaled infrastructure to support over 3 million devices and maintained a highly available, multi-region active-active platform with a 99.99% SLA

🏴 **Drove operational excellence and release reliability**
Implemented foundational standards, an architectural review board, and optimized incident management, significantly reducing mean time to resolution and improving release reliability

👥 **Led and developed high-performing global engineering teams**
Provided strategic leadership to and grew diverse global teams of managers, leads, and engineers, fostering career advancement and team cohesion

SKILLS

Strategic Technical Leadership, Developer Enablement, Global Infrastructure Scaling & Reliability, FinOps & Cloud Cost Optimization, High-Performing Team Development, Cloud-Native Architecture (Multi-Cloud), Operational Excellence & SRE Best Practices, Cross-Functional Collaboration & Influence, Product Management, Security & Compliance Leadership

INTERESTS

🤖 **Technological Advancements**
Keen interest in staying ahead of technological trends and leveraging them to drive industry advancements

👥 **Tech Leadership Meetups**
Network with other leading Engineering leaders to learn from shared experiences and challenges

💎 **Startup & Investment Consulting**
Review and analyze startup business plans, budgets, pitch decks, etc to provide support guidance for roadmaps and investment

EXPERIENCE

Director of DevOps

Wag

📅 09/2017 - 02/2018 📍 West Hollywood, CA

- **Built and managed high-performing DevOps and Corporate IT teams**, collaborating with leadership to implement Agile workflows and streamline project delivery
- **Enhanced security posture** through the internal design and integration of an automated in-transit encryption service (Vault) and established robust on-call policies and observability solutions
- **Directed scalable database architecture projects** and **negotiated key vendor agreements** to optimize budget and meet critical business requirements

DevOps Manager

Ring

📅 04/2016 - 09/2017 📍 Santa Monica, CA

- **Led the infrastructure platform and release process** across all product deployment pipelines, managing a large **team of 30+ SRE, DevOps, DBA, NOC, Platform, DevTools, and Release engineers**
- **Optimized AWS budget and spend** through audits, while implementing a structured and efficient deployment process across all key departments
- **Configured and maintained scalable AWS infrastructure** of **2,000-10,000+** global instances, **strategically planning** and implementing improvements for global reach and performance
- **Redesigned the customer-facing API architecture** to a modular monolith, significantly enhancing maintainability and scalability for future growth

Sr DevOps Engineer

theOpenHouse

📅 01/2016 - 04/2016 📍 Santa Monica, CA

- **Architected and managed a robust Jenkins CI environment**, including Docker deployments, to significantly streamline project builds and improve development workflows
- **Automated data ingestion processes** with efficient scripting, ensuring consistency and reliability of data feeds **reducing validation time by 25%**
- **Enhanced operational efficiency and consistency** by fully automating Jenkins CI provisioning through comprehensive Ansible playbooks

Sr Systems Engineer

Rent.com

📅 04/2014 - 01/2016 📍 Brentwood, CA

- **Managed and maintained over 1000 virtualized Linux servers** across multiple data centers, ensuring robust infrastructure for production and development
- **Played a key role in critical infrastructure migrations** and significantly improved system availability through strategic DNS architecture upgrades
- **Automated releases using Capistrano/Jenkins** and supported quality engineering automation to enhance deployment efficiency and reliability

Systems Administrator/Project Manager

Advertise.com

📅 12/2008 - 04/2014 📍 Sherman Oaks, CA

- **Monitored, managed, and maintained a hybrid infrastructure** of over 300 physical and virtualized Windows and Linux servers across data centers and various cloud solutions
- **Deployed and managed high-availability web servers and network infrastructure** to ensure continuous service operation
- **Led engineering projects focused on cloud migrations**, successfully transitioning services to both public and private cloud platforms
- **Managed high-traffic networks handling approximately 1 billion daily queries**, demonstrating expertise in large-scale network operations and monitoring

EDUCATION

Transfer Studies

Glendale Community College

📅 2005 - 2007 📍 Glendale, CA

High School Diploma

Verdugo Hills High School

📅 2001 - 2003 📍 Los Angeles, CA