

Cooper Simmons

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Victoria, BC

Summary

I am a highly self-motivated, pragmatic, and accomplished Engineering Manager with over 15 years of experience in leading teams, technology, and projects in building SaaS and enterprise software.

I have led successful teams in startups and enterprise organizations and have worked on a variety of complex systems. I have always been an integral part of fast-paced, agile teams — I collaborate well with roles across engineering, executive leadership, as well as end users. I have led multiple teams and projects and I get great joy from learning, continuously improving, and building great teams and technology.

Expertise

- Leadership: Empathetic leader; defines simple, lightweight processes; excellent project planner, communicator, and people manager
- DevOps tools: Terraform, Git, Argo CD, Chef, Jenkins, Vagrant, Capistrano
- Scripting: Ruby, Bash, Python
- OS platforms: Linux (RHEL- & Debian-based), AIX, Solaris
- Big data and streaming: Hadoop/HBase, Kafka, ELK, Splunk
- Cloud: multiple AWS production workloads
- Performance Tuning and Monitoring: Datadog, New Relic, SauceLabs, k6

Relevant Experience

Engineering Manager, Clyde

Remote

10/2022-3/2023

- As Engineering Manager at Clyde, I oversaw a distributed team (all US time zones) of 12 SW and QA engineers who were assigned to three cross-functional product teams.
- I led and managed all teams responsible for building and maintaining our suite of B2C and B2B SaaS applications, which were developed using Koa and React running in AWS EKS deployed via GitOps using Argo CD. These applications enable online merchants to effortlessly provide extended warranties on their products, while also offering a user-friendly claims process for end consumers.
- Reduced Clyde's AWS costs by 40% over a four-month period by analyzing Cost Explorer; I was able to take immediate action by reconfiguring retention policies in RDS and Backup, purchasing appropriately sized RIs and Savings Plans, and based on my comprehensive understanding of our engineering team's production use of AWS and our development workflows, I removed unused environments and objects across various AWS services (EKS, RDS, S3, EC2, ECS).
- As a collaborative leader, I aligned the three product teams to achieve more efficient processes while maintaining autonomy on each team, promoted and protected our engineering team culture, and worked with our Architect, Lead Devs, and individual engineers to establish and implement sustainable best practices for CI/CD, efficient development workflows, code review processes, and security patching.

Engineering Manager, CDK Global

Austin, Texas

02/2021-07/2022

- Leader for 16 software and QA engineers.
- Responsible for the CDK Neuron Performance Suite (<https://neuron.ai/>) — SaaS platform running on Ruby on Rails, and several microservices running NestJS and React.
- Work hand in hand with Director of Product & PMs, Designers, and Customer Success teams to prioritize and manage work across three product development teams using scrum and kanban.
- Responsible for team budget and salaries, onboarding and offboarding, coaching and career progression for all engineers on my team.
- Developed new on-call rotation process and flow for incident management for my team.
- Defined and integrated new agile processes for my engineering teams to simplify flow of work and better measure velocity across the three product development teams.
- Respond to production and security incidents along with on-call team members.

Platform Team Lead, Square Root (acquired by CDK Global 02/2021)

Austin, Texas

01/2015-02/2021

- Lead the Engineering team to bring about change in infrastructure management and development workflows and processes aligned with a DevOps mindset (automation, measure all things, repeatability and consistency, continuous improvement).
- Leader of all projects for a team of 5 - managing priorities and dependencies using Agile methodologies.
- Coach and mentor all 5 team members to be more impactful to the business and their careers through one-on-one meetings.
- Work closely with Product Managers, and Data and Application Engineers to design and implement cloud architectures that can be leveraged across all of Engineering.
- Manage all infrastructure with Infrastructure as Code all in AWS using Terraform and Chef - including platforms: Ruby on Rails, Kafka, MySQL/PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch.
- Monitor and measure infrastructure and application performance using Datadog, New Relic, and Sentry.
- Manage and automate deploys using Jenkins Pipelines and Capistrano for a Ruby on Rails platform (CI/CD).
- Some experience with Kubernetes (EKS) using Docker runtime and using GitOps with Helm charts and Flux.

Maps Hadoop & Splunk SRE

Austin, Texas

06/2014-12/2014

- Use of Puppet and Cloudera Manager to deploy and manage Hadoop clusters used by more than 10 developer teams.
- Managed and supported over 40 Hadoop clusters in 7 Cloudera Manager instances. Clusters varied in size: largest over 600 nodes; average 57 nodes; over 45 PB of storage capacity total.
- Supported Hadoop ecosystem including various job and configuration troubleshooting, clustered systems and network troubleshooting, user permissions and access issues, cluster upgrades and new service deployments.
- Management of Splunk environment consisting of thousands source hosts, over 45 indexer peers, running in Splunk Clustering environment with distributed search. This Splunk environment handles several TBs of incoming data per day.

Linux Ops Engineer, Rackspace

Rackspace, Austin, Texas

11/2010-05/2014

- **Operations Engineer, Cloud Big Data**
 - Integral part of a small team of engineers who built the Cloud Big Data product for Rackspace customers.
 - Built a world-class product that provisions Hadoop clusters running on OpenStack.
 - Use of Git/Github, Chef, and Jenkins to build a highly automated CI system to deploy our product's infrastructure running on an internal OpenStack implementation.
- **Operations Engineer, Hadoop Infrastructure, Cloud Product Line**
 - Sole Operations Engineer responsible for all architecture, monitoring, operations escalations, and planning for future capacity and new clusters.
 - Deployed and manage eight Hadoop clusters (Cloudera CDH2, Hortonworks HDP), approx. 200 nodes total, storing hundreds of terabytes of data for analyzing/processing/searching.
 - Lead engineer for migration from Cloudera CDH2 to Hortonworks HDP for all production usage.
- **Operations Engineer, Lead SME, Rackspace Email**
 - Custom Log Search application
 - Custom application for searching hundreds of terabytes of various logs using syslog-ng, scribe, Hadoop, and Solr as its main components.
 - Responsible for all operations escalations; maintain and plan for future needs for all of log search environment which includes log collection from several hundred hosts over three data centers.
 - Infrastructure Monitoring
 - Using Nimsoft Monitoring Solution (NMS) to monitor over 1500 hosts with thousands of probes. Responsible for maintaining monitoring infrastructure (Windows and Linux); creation/installation/modification of probes, etc.

Education & Professional Development

University

University of Texas-Austin, Texas

B.A. in Psychology