

Travis Thompson

Staff Platform Engineer

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Summary

Platform infrastructure engineer with 16+ years of experience building and scaling distributed systems across energy, cloud, and technology sectors. Specialized in Kubernetes orchestration, microservices architecture, and zero-downtime migrations at companies including Apple, Confluent, and LinkedIn. Proven track record leading critical infrastructure projects, building internal frameworks, and scaling teams from founding to 50+ engineers.

Career Highlights

- **Confluent Cloud:** Founding SRE who built deployment orchestration managing 1200+ K8s clusters across AWS, GCP, and Azure; helped scaled team from 5 to 100+ engineers; enabled growth from 0 to 1000+ customers
- **Apple iCloud:** Led zero-downtime migrations (Mesos to Kubernetes for 6 iMessage services, CloudKit to Cassandra) for authentication service handling 10,000+ req/sec for 1B+ devices worldwide
- **Gridmatic:** Designed high-availability state store for grid-scale battery sites; created SpringBoot-inspired Go framework adopted across engineering organization
- **LinkedIn:** Managed 1000+ node Hadoop clusters with 20+ PB of data, drove multiple major version migrations (0.20.2 → 1.x → 2.x)

Technical Skills

- **Languages:** Go · Java (SpringBoot, Webflux) · Python · Terraform
- **Infrastructure & Tools:** Kubernetes · Temporal · Kafka · Helm · ArgoCD · Prometheus · Grafana
- **Databases:** BigTable · Cassandra · PostgreSQL
- **Specializations:** Distributed Systems · Platform Infrastructure · Microservices · SRE

Experience

Gridmatic Cupertino, CA August 2024 - Present
Software Engineer - Platform Infrastructure

- Architected and deployed high-availability state store to track operational state across 5 grid-scale battery sites (scaling to 10+ in 2026), enabling real-time monitoring and control using Go, gRPC, BigTable, and Kubernetes on GKE
- Created SpringBoot-inspired framework for Go microservices, adopted by 2 projects with growing adoption across engineering organization to standardize service development patterns
- Automated critical site operations (de-rates, outages, scheduled tests) using Temporal workflows, reducing manual intervention and improving operational response time
- Maintained 24/7 on-call coverage for QSE desk operations, site infrastructure, and internal platform services

Apple San Francisco, CA September 2020 - January 2024
Software Engineer - iCloud - ICT4 June 2022 - January 2024

- Modernized legacy device authentication service handling 10,000+ requests/second for 1B+ devices worldwide, migrating to Java SpringBoot Webflux to improve maintainability and performance
- Executed zero-downtime migration from CloudKit to Cassandra, re-architecting data layer while maintaining service availability for production traffic at global scale

Site Reliability Engineer - iCloud - ICT4 September 2020 - June 2022

- Led zero-downtime Mesos to Kubernetes migration for 6 core iMessage backend services, architecting GSLB multi-datacenter routing, optimizing resource requests through extensive performance testing, and implementing quota management strategies
- Built common Helm chart framework to standardize deployment patterns, enabling zero-downtime continuous deployments with automated rollout strategies across iMessage platform
- Orchestrated capacity scaling for traffic surges, responding to 2x+ spikes during external service outages (e.g., Facebook Messenger) and planned high-traffic events
- Maintained 24/7 on-call rotation for iCloud and iMessage infrastructure, resolving production incidents at scale

Confluent

San Francisco, CA

May 2017 - September 2020

Software Engineering Tech Lead - Control Plane

January 2019 - September 2020

- Architected and led development of Confluent Cloud's foundational control plane, managing 1200+ Kubernetes clusters across AWS, GCP, and Azure with Go-based microservices and operator pattern agents
- Designed next-generation deployment platform to replace initial Terraform-based system, enabling continuous deployment at scale across multi-cloud infrastructure
- Built release management and configuration management tooling supporting all Confluent Cloud software deployments
- Led 3-person engineering team, hired engineering manager, and scaled organization as Cloud team evolved from single team to specialized groups

Site Reliability Engineer - Confluent Cloud

May 2017 - January 2019

- First SRE hire and founding team member for Confluent Cloud, building Terraform-based infrastructure and initial control plane that scaled from 0 to 1000+ customers across AWS and GCP
- Helped establish SRE practices including on-call rotation, incident management, and operational runbooks for production launch and early growth phase
- Hired first 5 SREs and 2 engineering managers (US and UK), contributing to team growth to 50+ engineers and evolution into specialized groups

SAP

Palo Alto, CA

September 2014 - May 2017

Site Reliability Engineer - HANA Cloud Platform Big Data Services

September 2016 - May 2017

- Integrated SAP HANA Vora with Altiscale platform following acquisition, automating deployment and operations as managed service
- Led datacenter buildout in St. Leon-Rot, Germany, deploying server hardware and networking infrastructure as part of SAP integration

Site Reliability Engineer - Altiscale

September 2014 - September 2016

- Managed large-scale Hadoop-as-a-Service cloud infrastructure using Ruby and Chef for enterprise customers
- Maintained 24/7 production on-call rotation, managed server hardware across multiple datacenters and networking infrastructure

LinkedIn

Mountain View, CA

June 2012 - September 2014

Grid Systems Engineer

- Managed 1000+ node Hadoop clusters processing 20+ PB of data, supporting LinkedIn's data infrastructure
- Led Hadoop version migrations (0.20.2 → 1.x → 2.x), coordinating infrastructure upgrades and user workflow migration
- Drove SQL-on-Hadoop proof-of-concept evaluating Apache Tajo, Presto, and Impala for low-latency query workloads
- Maintained infrastructure including LDAP/Kerberos authentication, BCFG2 configuration management, and monitoring (Ganglia, OpenTSDB)

Western Michigan University

Kalamazoo, MI

September 2008 - June 2012

Systems Administrator

- Administered 100+ workstations and servers (Linux, Solaris, Windows, macOS) supporting 300 users
- Managed authentication infrastructure (OpenLDAP, MIT Kerberos), databases (Oracle, MySQL), and networking services (DNS, NFS)

DTE Energy

Detroit, MI

May 2009 - August 2009

IT Intern

- Contributed to SAP ECC 5.0 to ERP 6.0 upgrade, gaining exposure to development (ABAP/Java), Basis (AIX), and testing

Education**Western Michigan University**

Kalamazoo, MI

September 2008 - April 2012

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science