James Meickle

Principal engineer for hire

Contact

Boston, MA

860-573-4976

admin@jmeickle.com

github.com/jmeickle

jmeickle.com

Skills

DevOps / SRE 10+ yrs.

Amazon Web Services 10+ yrs.

Linux 10+ yrs.

Docker / Containers 8 yrs.

Python 8 yrs.

Kubernetes 4 yrs.

Terraform 4 yrs.

Ansible 4 yrs.

About me

I've been a founding engineer, as well as infrastructure and security lead, for three consecutive startups. Each has successfully launched to paying customers. In total, I have over a decade of experience in full stack, site reliability engineering, and security roles across regulated industries such as finance, law, and research.

I'm searching for a principal+ engineer IC role on a fast-moving team at an engineering-centric company. My current technical interests include distributed systems, WASM, LLMs, ATproto, graph databases, Rust, and Elixir.

Work experience

Founding Engineer (Infrastructure & Security) **Mar. 2022 - Nov. 2023**
Tome (Remote)

- Built secure-by-design multiaccount AWS Organization with Terraform.
- Aligned all Python webservices, data pipelines, and ML models on continuous delivery, distributed tracing, and centralized logging.
- Deployed and debugged TensorFlow/Keras model serving infrastructure.
- Passed SOC 2 audit after personally implementing all required controls.
- Secured technical approval of our LLM architecture and data privacy from law firm cybersecurity risk teams, allowing us to sign enterprise deals.

Principal Infrastructure Engineer (Fidelity Labs) **Jun. 2020 - Jan. 2022**
Catchlight / Fidelity Investments (Remote)

- Secured enterprise-wide approval for Terraform as an IAC tool and coached other teams on adoption and best practices.
- Accelerated production deploy frequency 10x by building containerized CI/CD pipelines with Jenkins, Kubernetes, Kaniko, and Terraform.
- Integrated conversion ML model with Elasticsearch while remaining compliant with security, data protection, and regulatory standards.

Senior Site Reliability Engineer **Mar. 2017 - Apr. 2020**
Quantopian (Boston, MA)
acquired by Robinhood

- Eliminated 90% of overnight PagerDuty incidents by migrating fund trading from `cron` scheduling to Apache Airflow running on Kubernetes pods.
- Prototyped 50% cost reduction of Python trading algorithms by refactoring system as elastic serverless execution and analysis using Kubernetes, Argo Workflows, Amazon S3 and Amazon Athena.
- Designed self-service Github PR flow for Kubernetes CI/CD, including on-demand developer environments using Helm and *garden.io*.

Education

2005 - 2010

Bachelor of Arts,
Psychology & Political Science
Central Connecticut
State University

Projects

- **Community Land Trust**
  Creating affordable housing
- **Malden Neighbors Helping Neighbors**
  COVID-19 mutual aid
- **Pawpaw grove**
  Growing North America's only native tropical fruit

Interests

- Conference organizing
- Native gardening
- Language learning (ES, 中文)
- Cooking global cuisine
- Permadeath games

Site Reliability Engineer **May 2015 - Feb. 2017**
Harvard University - Neuroinformatics Research Group

- Wrote a Python framework for high reliability statistical processing of petabyte-scale MRI brain scan data using SLURM on HPC hardware.
- Architected next generation research data pipeline to cope with 5x data volume due to increased voxel density, phone logs, and GPS coordinates.
- Converted existing `cron` scheduling to Buildbot with support for retries, backfills, and on-demand jobs.

Developer Evangelist / Sales Engineer **Jan. 2013 - Oct. 2014**
AppNeta - TraceView (Boston, MA)
formerly Tracelytics, acquired by SolarWinds

- Conducted pre- and post-sales for distributed tracing software in multi-language enterprise environments spanning hundreds of servers.
- Coded observability integrations for Chef, OpenShift, Symfony2, Drupal 8, Vagrant, and Hack/HHVM.

Release Engineer / Full Stack Developer **Jun. 2012 - Nov. 2012**
Romney for President (Boston, MA)

- Decreased page load times by 50% as traffic increased 20x via targeted CDN and rendering improvements discovered using observability tools.
- Achieved 50,000 peak users during presidential debates by conducting load testing, optimizing cache utilization, and refactoring backend code.
- Increased deployment frequency from biweekly to multiple times per week by replacing legacy `svn` workflow with `git` and migrating all users.

Writing and speaking

- *Cooperative Economics for Engineers* (devopsdaysNYC 2020, DevOpsDays Boston 2019, DevOpsDays Hartford 2019)
- *Beyond Burnout* (Ch. 29 of *Seeking SRE: Conversations About Running Production Systems at Scale*, ed. Blank-Edelman, pub. O'Reilly, 2018)
- *Sell Cron, Buy Airflow: Modern data pipelines in finance* (ODSC East 2019, PyData DC 2018, Velocity New York 2018)
- *Ansible for SRE Teams* hands-on training course (O'Reilly Safari, Velocity New York 2018, SREcon18 Americas)

Last updated: 22nd January 2024