

Matthew Masters

Founding Platform / DevOps Leader • Kubernetes (GKE/AKS/EKS) • GitOps • Terraform • FinOps

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SUMMARY

Founding Platform / DevOps leader with 20+ years in systems and release engineering and 5+ years building cloud-native SaaS infrastructure from zero to scale. Designed GitOps-driven Kubernetes platforms (GKE/AKS/EKS) leveraging GitHub/GitLab, ArgoCD, Terraform, Istio to enabling hundreds of monthly deployments across 40+ microservices. Known for reducing cloud spend 20%+, improving PR turnaround 30% via AI-assisted automation, and building developer-first tooling that increases delivery speed and reliability.

KEY IMPACT

- Built and scaled a multi-tenant Kubernetes platform (18-node cluster) supporting 40+ microservices from concept to production.
- Increased release cadence from weekly to hundreds/month through GitOps delivery and reusable CI templates.
- Reduced monthly cloud spend 20%+ via right-sizing, spot strategy, and ongoing infrastructure audits/optimization.
- Cut PR turnaround 30% by integrating Gemini-assisted review automation and earlier security detection in CI.
- Delivered Azure container platforms: AKS optimization/monitoring and a Docker Compose implementation for Azure-hosted workloads.
- Led modernization of a complex, outdated VMware infrastructure to current supported versions, improving stability and security posture.
- **Delivered as a consultant:** Led migration of ~200 legacy VMs (CentOS/vSphere/Chef) to Ubuntu LTS using Terraform, Bash, and GitLab CI—establishing repeatable, secure, and CVE-resilient infrastructure across environments.
- **Consulting impact:** Improved platform maintainability by integrating custom GitLab runners, guiding transition to declarative IaC, and advising on GCP Kubernetes TLS automation (cert-manager + Let's Encrypt).

CORE SKILLS

Cloud

GCP (GKE, IAM, Secret Manager), Azure (AKS), AWS (EKS)

Kubernetes

GKE/AKS/EKS, Helm, Istio/Service Mesh, Ingress, autoscaling, cluster hardening

IaC	Terraform (modules, environments), GitOps workflows
CI/CD	ArgoCD, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins, reusable pipeline templates
Observability	Prometheus, Grafana, SLOs/SLIs, on-call/incident response
Security	Snyk, StackHawk, container scanning, secrets management, secure SDLC
Data/Integration	Airbyte (working knowledge), Snowflake (working knowledge), PostgreSQL, MySQL
Languages	Bash, Python (working), Go (working)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Velocity Z / PowerVZ — Co-Founder & Head of Platform Engineering

Tampa, FL • 2020–Present

- Architected and scaled multi-tenant Kubernetes (GKE) platform (18-node cluster) powering 40+ microservices from greenfield to production.
- Built a GitOps delivery platform using ArgoCD and reusable GitHub Actions templates; scaled releases from weekly to hundreds of deployments/month.
- Reduced monthly cloud spend 20%+ via right-sizing, spot utilization, and ongoing infrastructure audits/optimization (including Cast.ai where appropriate).
- Implemented Gemini-assisted PR review automation, improving PR turnaround 30% and strengthening early security detection in CI.
- Implemented Prometheus/Grafana observability and incident response workflows; supported enterprise security questionnaires and onboarding requirements.
- Developed internal tooling for service/version tracking integrated with GitHub to eliminate environment drift and improve release visibility.

OpenText — Senior Developer / Senior Configuration Management Lead

Tampa, FL • 2006–2020

- Owned build/release systems for an organization of 20+ developers; improved repeatability and reduced release-day issues.
- Led modernization from manual deployments to automated packaging and release workflows across heterogeneous environments.
- Contributed as a hybrid Dev + Ops engineer (Angular/JSP) while standardizing configuration management and release practices.
- Led a major upgrade of complex, legacy VMware infrastructure to current supported versions (vSphere/ESXi), improving stability and security posture.
- Mentored engineers on automation, branching strategies, and release engineering fundamentals.

Nielsen Media Research / CommerceQuest — Configuration Management & Release Engineer

1999–2006

- Designed and built nightly build automation and release tooling across Linux environments, UNIX environments, Windows, iSeries and z/OS (Ant/Makefiles).
- Implemented source control and configuration management standards supporting 100+ engineers, improving traceability and release consistency.

EDUCATION

B.S. Management Information Systems

University of South Florida – Tampa, FL