

# LOREN LISK

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## Career Summary

Staff Platform Engineer with 15+ years building and scaling infrastructure for Fortune 500 companies. Triple Kubernetes certified (CKA/CKAD/CKS) and AWS Professional certified architect who has designed, deployed, and supported 30+ production Kubernetes clusters. Recognized technical leader and mentor with a track record of establishing engineering standards, training teams, and driving platform modernization initiatives.

## Core Competency / Skills

Kubernetes: EKS/Karpen/Knative/Docker/LXC	GitOps/IaC: Terraform/FluxCD/ArgoCD/Crossplane/Kustomize	Cloud/Virtualization: AWS/OpenStack/KVM/VMWare/XEN
Programming: Bash/Python/Go/PHP/HTML/CSS3	Observability: Datadog/Prometheus/Grafana/ELK	Policy/Security: OPA-Gatekeeper/External-Secrets/Packer
CI/CD: GitHub-Actions/Atlantis	IDP/DevEx: Backstage/Apache-DevLake/SonarQube	Databases: PostgreSQL/MySQL/Redis/MongoDB
Linux: Ubuntu/Debian/RHEL/AL2	Infrastructure: DNS/DHCP/Nginx/Apache	Storage/BI: EMC/SolidFire/ZFS/Ceph/BIA/HANA

**Keywords:** Platform Engineering, Site Reliability Engineering (SRE), DevOps, Infrastructure as Code, Cloud Architecture, Container Orchestration, CI/CD Pipelines, Internal Developer Platform (IDP), GitOps, Microservices, High Availability, Disaster Recovery, Security Compliance, Cost Optimization, Technical Leadership, Mentorship

## Work Experience

### Staff DevOps Engineer

Sep 2022 - Present

#### Allergan Data Labs in Chicago, Illinois, United States

- Built Backstage-based Internal Developer Portal enabling engineering-wide Kubernetes visibility across 10+ EKS clusters
- Architected GitOps platform infrastructure creating 18+ kustomize service bases for declarative FluxCD management
- Led all EKS cluster upgrades from v1.24 through v1.33 across platform environments over 2+ years
- Authored 5 ADRs establishing engineering standards for OPA/Gatekeeper, Knative, and Crossplane adoption
- Modernized AWS security posture: completed IRSAs → Pod Identity migration for all platform services
- Implemented multi-region expansion (us-east-2) including VPC, Transit Gateway, and ElastiCache infrastructure

### Senior DevOps Engineer → Staff Engineer, Engineering

Jul 2017 - Sep 2022

#### Foghorn Consulting, Inc. in San Francisco, CA

- Promoted from Senior DevOps Engineer to Staff Engineer, Engineering (Mar 2021)
- Kubernetes SME, Senior authority and Escalation point for Kubernetes and containerization, for all Clients, Internal and External
- Technical Lead on Multiple Customers
- Developed Training for Kubernetes, for the engineering and consulting Teams to provide competent support and helped document the best practices
- Supported upwards of 30 kubernetes clusters and architected 12+ of them personally
- Established and Maintained Great Relationships with Our Customers
- Wrote technical documentation as well as technical blog posts as a thought leader
- Helped support a growing list of Fortune 500 Clients with implementation and architectural containerization consultation
- Completed multiple modernization efforts into containerization and kubernetes orchestration

### Senior DevOps Engineer

Jan 2017 - Jul 2017

#### Travel Syndication Technology (TST) in Greater Atlanta Area

- Deployed Kubernetes 1.6.4 into our Non-Prod Environments
- Migrated Etcd3 from 2.3.7 to 3.1.17 for use with internal infrastructure
- Deployed Kubernetes 1.5.2 into our Non-Prod Environments
- Worked towards Migrating the CI/CD Pipeline to utilize Kubernetes for builds and tests
- Helped Train 4 Employees to implement and use the Kubernetes infrastructure
- Deploy Custom "One-Off" products / projects when required and approved
- Established and Maintained Relationships with Our Internal Development Teams
- Configured infrastructure to utilize stateless CoreOS instances to run containerized workloads
- Supported AWS Production and redesigned the non-prod environments

### Senior Linux Systems Engineer III, Operations Engineering

Jul 2015 - Jan 2017

#### Peak Hosting / Peak Consulting Services in Tualatin, OR

- Final Escalation point for Complex, non-routine technical challenges to our external Customers
- Closely Collaborate with Storage, Networking, Software Engineering Teams
- Train tier 2 to provide competent support and helped document the best practices / documentation
- Deploy Custom "One-Off" products / projects when required and approved
- Established and Maintained Great Relationships with Our Customers / Vendors
- Wrote Deployment kickstarts / preseeds and validation Scripts for customer Complex Deployments
- Supported 5 Datacenters Containing 8000+ Servers
- Deployed a Production Openstack "Mitaka" Environment for Internal private cloud initiatives
- Principally Participated in planning and execution of a 1 Month cross country datacenter migration and virtualization of ~2300 customer systems, in a team of 5

### Senior Linux Systems Administrator III, Customer Dedicated Team

Nov 2014 - Jul 2015

#### Peak Hosting / Peak Consulting Services in Tualatin, OR

- Developed Training Material to Support/deploy the infrastructure for a Massively Multiplayer Mobile Game rated in the Top 10
- Designed and Supported an LLDP Deployment Across 4000 Servers within very tight timelines
- Deployed Redis HA Clusters & MySQL HA Clusters using Galera and Percona as well as massive frontend nginx web heads behind VIPs
- Provided Personalized High Available Tier III Support for Customer in the > \$1 Million Monthly Revenue Range
- Worked closely with all support teams regarding the Customer and Maintained Quality of Service
- Helped Define the Change Management Regarding the Customer
- Supported 5 Datacenters Containing 7000 Servers

### Linux Systems Administrator II

Jan 2012 - Jun 2013

#### PEER 1 Hosting in Greater Atlanta Area

- Administered RedHat Linux and Windows/IIS servers across 8 datacenters supporting 8,000+ servers
- Diagnosed and resolved complex application-level performance issues in production environments
- Recognized as go-to escalation point for Linux troubleshooting within customer support department

## Education Summary

- (CKS: Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist: LF-y047pft6og, in 2022)
- (CKAD: Certified Kubernetes Application Developer: LF-nrp0fw4lk, in 2022)
- (CKA: Certified Kubernetes Administrator: CKA-2000-006393-0100, in 2020)
- (AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional: RMMETXPK2MV41WKY, in 2021)
- (AWS Certified DevOps Engineer - Professional: K45CJYWLBI1FEQK3C, in 2021)
- (AWS Certified Security – Specialty: 8XPZJTKGEFQQ79Z, in 2019)
- (Associates in Networking from Chattahoochee Technical College of GA, in 2007)
- (CIS CCNA Certificate from Chattahoochee Technical College of GA, in 2004)
- (Renewed A+/Net+/Sec+ from Comptia in 2011)

## Professional Recommendations

### D Knox, Site Reliability Engineer, Pymetrics, worked with Loren while he was at Foghorn Consulting

"I had the distinct honor of working closely with Loren Lisk while he served as a consultant for Foghorn Consulting, Inc. at Pymetrics. From the outset, it was abundantly clear that Loren is a subject matter expert, particularly in the realms of Terraform, Kubernetes, and Kustomize. What sets Loren apart, however, is not just his deep technical knowledge but also his incredible reliability. In an industry where deadlines are often tight and the stakes are high, Loren was our go-to problem solver. His competence in specialized technologies saved our team on numerous occasions, providing both immediate solutions and long-term strategies. Even more impressively, Loren never hesitated to share his knowledge, serving as both a technical guru and a mentor. He has a unique talent for explaining complex concepts in an easily digestible manner, empowering our team to develop new skills and understand intricate systems. Beyond his technical prowess, Loren is a team player with a positive attitude, always ready to assist or jump into the fray to ensure a project's success."

### Matthew Kohn, VP of Cloud and DevOps, Foghorn Consulting, managed Loren directly

"Loren is a talented, hardworking and passionate tech professional. Loren worked on my team while at Foghorn and I had the opportunity to partner with him closely on various projects. I can honestly say Loren is an amazing K8 engineer with extensive knowledge of the technology and its usage. He is truly at the top of his field, always trying to learn and be on the bleeding edge of not just K8s but also AWS. Loren is not only extremely technical but also a strong communicator and mentor for other engineers. Not only is he always willing to jump in on anything needed but he is also able to partner with other engineers regardless of level to workshop any problems that arise. His ability to train others while striving for outstanding work is exemplary. I was thrilled to have Loren on my team and feel he'd be an asset to any organization."

### Zachary Punches, Lead DevOps Engineer, Allergan Data Labs, worked with Loren at Allergan Data Labs

"Loren is one of the most talented engineers I've ever had the pleasure to work with. Not only is he a dynamite principal engineer but his ability to distill his knowledge so that lesser skilled engineers can learn from his is a skill unparalleled by most. Working with Loren opened my eyes to what it means to be the best in your craft. His work ethic, knowledge, and experience make Loren a top tier engineer that any company would be lucky to employ"

### Sara Tumbarella, MS, CISSP, Associate Enterprise Security Architect, Blackline, worked with Loren at Foghorn Consulting

"I had the pleasure of working alongside Loren for over 3 years. He was and still is my go-to expert when it comes to containerization. The depth and breadth of knowledge that he has gained through his years of experience is exceedingly difficult to come by in the industry. Loren is exceptional at what he does, but what truly sets him apart is his eagerness to teach and his ability to be patient during the process. I have no doubt that Loren and I will cross paths again because given the chance, I would hire him tomorrow."

### Shashank Prasad, Lead DevOps/SRE Engineer, DevOps consulting client

"It's rare that you come across standout talent like Loren. Loren was brought in for DevOps consulting help. He is one of the most talented and professional engineers I have ever worked with, an explosive combination of work ethic, knowledge and experience. He is passionate about technology, loves what he does so it does not feel like a job for him which shows. His ability to solve complex issues in record time, recommending the right technology to use for the job and breaking things down efficiently so engineers can understand makes him a rock star in any team. It's been an absolute pleasure working with Loren for the past few years and learning all kinds of awesome new things from him."

### Steve Styerwalt, Director of Cloud Engineering, Foghorn Consulting, worked with Loren on the same team

"Loren is an excellent DevOps engineer with great Kubernetes and AWS skills. He always came up with great solutions and made sure they were implemented successfully. Loren went out of his way to exceed client expectations, and always responded promptly to client requests."

### Steve Ortiz, Travel Syndication Technology, worked with Loren on different teams

"I was a pleasure to have worked with Loren. Loren was brought in to help recover and stabilize a fragile system(environment, deployment,etc). He had the knowledge to correct and simplify the system, while working closely with many different teams concurrently. He demonstrates energy towards both the end customer and his direct colleagues. He has exceptional analytical and troubleshooting skills. Loren would be a great asset to any company."

### Jon Billow, Senior Executive, Peak Hosting, was senior to Loren at Peak Hosting

"When I started at Peak, I was very quiet for the first 30 days. I wanted to get a sense of who was who, where the thought leaders were, where were 'those people' that are in every organization - once you find them you can get ANYTHING done, but until then, good luck. As I got to know my staff and started to feel the flow of the business, several names immediately started to become familiar. Regardless of the time pressure, the complexity of the project, or the level of customer difficulty, one person that I kept hearing about was Loren Lisk. Peak's workforce is completely virtual, and he was several levels removed from me re: direct report, yet I became familiar with his work ethic, attention to detail, and solid engineering approach by his reputation. We had one major customer that regularly threw their weight around with extreme engineering challenges, and Loren was always the guy you could count on to find a solution, on time, keeping the customer happy."

### Justin Harris, Owner at Atom Networks, Peak Hosting, worked with Loren on different teams

"Loren is one of the strongest Linux engineers I have ever had the pleasure to work with. His dedication and passion helped drive all of our projects together to completion, even under very tight time lines. Loren is always willing to help, teach, and learn, making him a rock star in any team. I would highly recommend!"

### Richard Staats, MBA, Senior Systems/Cloud Operations Engineer, Peak Hosting, worked with Loren on the same team

"Loren is undoubtedly one of the most talented Linux Engineers I have ever worked with. It has been my pleasure working with Loren for the past year and learning all kinds of awesome new things from him. As a true Linux professional Loren is always eager to dissect complex problems and where possible automate solutions to make work faster, more accurate, and repeatable. With an insatiable passion for learning and diving deep into new tech, Loren is truly a master of his craft."

### Syn Calvo, Operations Engineer, Peak Hosting, worked with Loren on the same team

"For almost two and a half years, I had the honor of working with Loren first as a Linux System Administrator and then through the creation of a new team of Operations Engineers. Loren's knowledge and expertise were invaluable to me at Peak Hosting and he is one of the best team members I could have asked for. He is always willing to help and would seek every opportunity to trade knowledge and learn or teach something new. He is never afraid to receive honest feedback and turn advice into profit or work with his team toward a mutual solution for customer inquiries. Loren's involvement in and understanding of Linux Administration, Problem Management and Change Management brought me to him many times for advice. He is an asset to any company looking for a rock star on their team."

### John Biggi, Executive, Peak Hosting, was senior to Loren at Peak Hosting

"Loren has been a consistent technical lead within Peak's Operations team. Loren has been integral in creating and delivering the content of various internal training sessions. Loren has also been at the forefront of creating processes and procedures which enabled our teams to be more efficient and effective in their delivery of services for Peak's customers. Loren's technical skills are consistently sought after by his peers as well as his cross functional teammates. I would recommend Loren for any position that requires both technical prowess as well as excellent interpersonal skills."

## Professional Recommendations - Continued

### Michael Gardner, Experienced IT Professional, PEER 1 Hosting, managed Loren directly

"Loren is one of the best Linux administrators I know. He is extremely knowledgeable in Linux, Networking and server administration. When I had the pleasure of being his leader, her stood out as the go to guy shortly after joining the company. I was impressed with how hard he worked to learn our business and master it. I constantly received great compliments and kudos our customers about him. I had customers that he impressed who only wanted to work with him. If you are looking for a hard working, knowledgeable administrator who is great with his team and customers, Loren is the person."

### Brian Beaudoin, Senior Principal Consultant at Red Hat, PEER 1 Hosting, worked with Loren on different teams

"Loren has always been a pleasure to work with. As an outgoing, communicative coworker, he naturally gets along with others lending his strengths to others in teams. His drive to continuously learn and improve has deepened his breadth of knowledge and experience in cloud technologies, immutable deployments, and orchestration for scalability and management. I wholeheartedly give him my recommendation."

### Donald James Butler, Linux System Administrator, IBM, worked with Loren on the same team

"To whom it may concern, I have worked with Loren Lisk at IBM, and I was extremely impressed with Loren's level of knowledge and his exceptional enthusiasm. Mr. Lisk brought a wealth of knowledge and skill that helped us improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Managed Services offering. Key areas of expertise in which Loren contributed included Linux administration, BASH scripting, hardware platform knowledge, and several proposals for new solutions to help make our operation more efficient. Loren's knowledge includes a well rounded set of skills at expert levels, only some of which are within the scope of what our team does. Any company would gain an extreme value if they choose to hire Loren Lisk as System Administrator."

### David Adam Sully, Building big ideas for the future, Peak Hosting, worked with Loren on different teams

"Loren was an excellent addition to our engineering team. He was very knowledgeable, results driven, and detail oriented. He was always willing to go the extra mile during times of increased operational tempo and was willing to dive into complex issues to help his team mates succeed. It was a pleasure to work with Loren and I'd love to work with him again in the future."

### Pavel May, System Administrator, Peak Hosting, worked directly with Loren at Peak Hosting

"Loren is a detail-oriented, untiring, ceaselessly efficiency-minded, automation-loving Linux administrator. No task seems too big, but also no task beneath him. Loren always seeks out feedback on which to base his improvement. An utter pleasure to work with this man."

### Scott J. Billups, Customer Experience & Support Leader, PEER 1 Hosting, was senior to Loren at PEER 1 Hosting

"Loren has incredible Linux skills that can contribute to any organization. His sense of urgency and working great under pressures separates him from the pack of systems administrators / engineers. If I had the opportunity work with or hire Loren, I would do so in a heart beat."

### Vorian King, CKA, Principal DevOps Engineer, Peak Hosting, worked with Loren on the same team

"Loren was one of the brightest points of my time with Peak Hosting. His interest and professional input into many areas in a high-volume, high-pressure environment were constantly helpful in making sure that everything was running smoothly. Loren's experience and guidance were invaluable in helping to formulate most of our policies and procedures in dealing with large and complex customers, and his leadership was essential in guiding our team to meet ever-changing and increasingly difficult goals. Loren proved himself time and time again to be a valuable asset to any project he was asked to handle."

### Fereydoun Tavangary, MBA, Experienced IT leader, Peak Hosting, managed Loren at Peak Hosting

"It has been my pleasure to supervise Loren at Peak Hosting. I found him to be a hard worker, he always kept calm under pressure and I could count on him to be a natural leader. He always went above and beyond his job duties and was willing to step up and take on new challenges to help his team be successful. Loren has excellent communication skills, strong technical abilities, is organized, multi-tasks efficiently and can work well independently."

### Sergei Bleikhman, Managing service and product delivery, Peak Hosting, managed Loren directly

"I have known Loren since he joined Peak Hosting in 2014. As a Manager of Technical Operations at the time I worked with him extensively and have nothing but appreciation for his technical skills and organizational abilities. Hired as a Systems Administrator, Loren played a key role in various company-wide initiatives, like development and continuous improvement of the unattended installation system and training of customer service admins on support of the major client - from syllabus creation to conducting training sessions and post-training testing. Soon promoted to an Operations Engineer, Loren continued to excel in complex technical solutions, such as Xen multi-system deployment and migration, and design/build of an OpenStack environment. He has also served as a customer liaison, being directly involved in account management and growth development of a key customer. I would strongly recommend Loren to a potential employer and am available for any additional feedback."

### William Bakke, IBM colleague, worked with Loren on the same team

"Loren Lisk is extremely dedicated, able to work great in a team or by himself on task, thrives under pressure. Always keeping his skills updated and remaining top of his game, given a new project he will learn everything he needs to know to not only complete the task but improve on it."

### Wayne Salhany, Inventor and Technologist, Chattahoochee Technical College, was Loren's client and teacher

"Loren is an IT tech at CTC where I teach. He has also been my student. He is a quick learner and competent programmer and script-writer. He gets along well with co-workers and colleagues. He is consistent and reliable. I am happy to recommend Loren."

### Clarence Winfield, Network Engineer, Chattahoochee Technical College, managed Loren directly

"Loren is very technical and knowledgeable of his position and many other aspects and areas of the Technical Support division of Chattahoochee Technical College. Not only does he performs his primary duties efficiently and promptly, his performance is the same or better when assigned to or volunteers to help with other projects. He is always trying/willing to learn more and is constantly getting training for and works hard at earning various IT certifications. Working with Loren has also increased my knowledge in some areas of IT."

### Victoria Gardner, managed Loren indirectly at Chattahoochee Technical College

"As a Federal Work Study, Loren put in more hours than required under the program, often keeping the pace of many of the full time staff. His diversity in the technology field, gained as much under personal experience as education, made him a great asset during his time in our support department. Problem solving is among his many strengths. Not afraid of a challenge, Loren took his personal time to "tweak" existing applications, making them more efficient, faster, saving time and resources. He is supportive of other people's ideas and will offer to help to bring about the best results."