Jim Knochelmann

DevSecOps Engineer

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Summary:

DevSecOps Engineer with 10+ years of experience building secure, automated CI/CD pipelines, managing cloud infrastructure, and leading security initiatives across cross-functional teams. Combines deep technical skill with risk analysis expertise developed as a Navy Intelligence Analyst to deliver scalable, resilient systems that are secure by design.

Key Skills

CI/CD • DevSecOps • Kubernetes • Jenkins • Docker • AWS • Ansible • Git • Helm • Python • Bash • Node.js • JavaScript • Red Hat • Linux • CentOS • Terraform • SAST/DAST • OWASP ZAP • SonarQube • twistlock • Vulnerability Management • Risk Analysis • Cross-Team Collaboration

Experience:

April 2024 – Present — Personal & Professional Development   **Alexandria, KY**

• Building a home lab to experiment with AI-assisted contextual security assessment automation
    - Designed a prototype framework to correlate CVEs with architecture diagrams using Mermaid.js and LLMs, streamlining triage for complex systems using AI-assisted architecture analysis
• Developed a trivia game using Jeopardy-style prompts and LLM-based developer workflows
    - Gained hands-on experience integrating WebSockets and Python-based AI agents at runtime, deepening familiarity with async architecture and AI tooling
• Practiced mindfulness and intentional communication to strengthen focus and interpersonal effectiveness
    - Cultivated emotional self-regulation and clearer feedback habits, improving readiness to contribute calmly and constructively within high-performing teams

May 2018 - April 2024 - IBM Watson - Natural Language Understanding / Watson Core   **Denver, CO**
 Senior DevSecOps Engineer

• Provided executive summaries and analysis to quantify risk for non-technical decision makers
    - Enabled confident release of all products on schedule with a clear understanding of current state of risk
• Identified and resolved security issues in over twenty microservices as team security focal across 5 teams
    - Increased productivity by 20%+ on each dev team as they were able to focus functionality
• Implemented and maintained DAST and SAST security scans into continuous integration pipeline
    - Provided the benchmark of documentation and automation that were emulated across external teams
• Developed helm charts to package and deploy complex AI microservices into private kubernetes clusters
    - Enabled the on-schedule release of mission critical components into the IBM cloud pak platform
• Supported public cloud offering with ongoing maintenance and feature improvements to deployment process
    - Ensured stable, timely releases by improving reliability and reducing post-deployment issues
• Automated deployment and monitoring tasks using Jenkins, Travis, and custom CI/CD tools
    - Improved productivity by over 5x in deployment and security assessment workflows
• Responded to urgent issues as a member of the on-call rotation for a world class SaaS offering
    - Restored or stabilized production API 20+ times after hours to ensure 24/7 uptime
• Tracked, organized, and managed tasks as Scrum Master for multiple teams of 5+ engineers/ data scientists

- Refined team workflows to balance task tracking with productive engineering time
• Mentored 5 junior engineers in automation and security processes
   - Reduced onboarding time 50%+ with guided training, reusable templates, and documented best practices
• Facilitated a weekly cross-team security meeting for over two years to align and advance security initiatives
   - Improved collaboration across 4+ teams, accelerating security adoption and reducing duplicated work

Jan 2013 - Apr 2018 - airSpring Software   **Lexington, KY**
 DevOps Engineer
• Designed, implemented, and maintained 50+ server testing infrastructure in Jenkins CI/CD
   - Established automated pipelines that became the foundation for all build and test processes
• Managed over 150 Linux servers, and employed tools like Ansible to apply configuration changes
   - Reduced config drift and manual errors using repeatable, version-controlled playbooks
• Developed features for a proprietary JavaScript software platform
   - Enhanced platform with PDF tools and LDAP support, expanding enterprise capabilities
• Increased productivity by engineering scripted solutions for repetitive tasks
   - Boosted CI speed 10x via parallelization and fault-tolerant test framework design
• Hardened infrastructure by configuring firewalls, VPNs, and AWS security groups
   - Minimized risk exposure by restricting network access to only trusted systems and users
• Created and maintained ops documentation while supporting 50+ on-prem deployed customer apps
   - Facilitated smooth installs and fewer post-deployment issues through documentation and direct support

May 2011 - Dec 2012 - Computer Vision Research Lab at University of Kentucky   **Lexington, KY**
Undergraduate Lab Assistant
• Designed and implemented a tool for aligning aerial photos into a mosaic viewable on Google Maps
• Developed an automated system for scraping weather data and visualizing on an interactive map

Jan 2006 - May 2009 - US Navy Special Warfare Group One   **Coronado, CA**
 All Source Intelligence Analyst
• Supervised a team of five intel professionals in the collection and analysis of time-sensitive information during two deployments to Iraq in support of Navy SEAL operations.
• Provided daily intelligence analysis and briefings for platoon leadership to drive targeting operations

May 2003 - Dec 2005 - US Navy Europe/ Sixth Fleet   **Naples, Italy**
 Junior Intelligence Analyst
• Analyzed and processed message traffic data into consumable intelligence for executive leadership
• Prepared and delivered intelligence briefings and message traffic for significant maritime activity

Education & Certifications:

• B.S. Computer Science, magna cum laude — University of Kentucky (2012)
• CISSP — ISC² (2023)
• AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner (2025)