

David Slusser

Software Engineering Leader | Platform Engineering | AI-Enabled Development

dbslusser@yahoo.com

www.dbslusser.com

linkedin.com/in/davidslusser

github.com/davidslusser

Software engineering leader with 15+ years of experience building scalable cloud platforms, enterprise applications, developer tooling, and infrastructure automation. Expertise in Python, Django, Kubernetes, AWS, CI/CD, and AI-assisted software development. Proven track record leading cross-functional teams, driving technical strategy, and delivering high-impact solutions in regulated and large-scale environments.

Core Competencies

Python • Django • Kubernetes • AWS • Terraform • Docker • CI/CD • GitLab CI • Argo CD • REST APIs • GraphQL • MongoDB • PostgreSQL • Redis • AI/LLM Integration • Databases • Platform Engineering • Site Reliability Engineering • Technical Leadership

Work Experience

Centene (Aug. 2024 - Present)

Lead Application Engineer

- Led technical direction, architecture decisions, delivery priorities, and engineering standards for a cross-functional development team
- Drove Agile delivery through backlog management, sprint planning, estimation, stakeholder communication, and Scrum facilitation
- Championed AI-assisted software development practices, accelerating delivery velocity and improving code quality
- Integrated AI capabilities into SDLC workflows, including code review, documentation, knowledge management, and developer enablement
- Built AI-driven knowledge platforms using LLMs, vector databases, and prompt engineering to improve information discovery and operational efficiency
- Revamped and automated Kubernetes-based deployment pipelines, enabling zero-touch CI/CD releases across multiple environments
- Implemented MongoDB enhancements that improved query performance, reduced application complexity, and lowered database latency
- Developed Python, Django, and HTMX applications that streamlined data processing and enhanced user experiences
- Standardized runbooks, technical specifications, and design documentation to improve reliability, incident response, and knowledge sharing
- Designed and implemented GitLab CI pipelines that enforced coding standards, security controls, and automated testing
- Designed and built high-performance RESTful and GraphQL APIs supporting enterprise-scale payment processing

Tech Stack: Python, Django, React, Node.js, Postgres, MongoDB, Redis, AWS, Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, GitLab CI/CD

Splunk (April 2024 - June 2024)

Staff Software Engineer (contract)

- Automated the deployment of Splunk Kubernetes clusters using Python, Go, and GitLab CI/CD pipelines, resulting in a 20% reduction in deployment time

Tech Stack: Golang, Python, Kubernetes, GitLab CI/CD, AWS

Seal Storage (Nov. 2023 - April 2024)

Staff Site Reliability Engineer (contract)

- Automated the deployment of custom and open-source Kubernetes resources using Argo CD ApplicationSets
- Implemented standardized OIDC-based authentication and authorization using Okta, streamlining access management across all services and Kubernetes infrastructure
- Developed Terraform and Terragrunt code to automate infrastructure provisioning, improving consistency and reducing deployment times
- Administered the setup and management of physical, virtual, and containerized Linux servers, network devices, and data center infrastructure

Tech Stack: Kubernetes, GitLab, Helm, Terraform, Okta, Ansible, Argo CD, Prometheus, Grafana, Loki

Nike (June 2023 - Nov. 2023)

Senior Software Engineer (contract)

- Designed and implemented an end-to-end testing framework to validate API-based bulk wholesale orders with large JSON payloads, enhancing system performance and scalability
- Automated the deployment of Kubernetes services across multiple environments using Argo CD, streamlining the deployment process
- Developed Infrastructure as Code (IaC) using Terraform to automate the management of AWS resources across production, staging, development, and performance testing environments

Tech Stack: Python, Flask, Postgres, GitHub, Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, Terraform, Argo CD

MyOme (April 2021 – March 2023)

Senior Software Engineer

- Designed and implemented a full-stack laboratory information management system (LIMS) using Python/Django to track genomic samples, data files, client orders, order status, pipeline executions, and report deliveries
- Designed, built, and deployed an order management service to facilitate order creation, status updates, and data retrieval for multi-vendor orders
- Developed reusable CI/CD pipelines to automate the build and deployment of Docker images for all containerized tools, applications, and services
- Managed AWS resources, including S3, EC2, RDS, EKS, IAM, and ECR, across multiple accounts and development, test, and production environments using Terraform
- Researched, evaluated, and integrated new technologies, frameworks, and platforms to define and establish technology stack standards
- Developed web front-end interfaces and reusable components using HTML, CSS, and JavaScript

Tech Stack: Python, Django, Flask, Postgres, Redis, Celery, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, AWS

Box (Feb. 2016 – April 2021)

Senior Software Engineer/Site Reliability Engineer

- Architected a platform to identify Access and Identity Management (IAM) issues across multi-cloud environments (AWS, Azure, GCP), facilitating security remediation and providing evidence for certification audits (SOC, PCI, FedRAMP, HIPAA, ISO 9001), ensuring cloud infrastructure security and compliance
- Developed and delivered an automated system to organize and facilitate evidence collection for certifications, including SOC, PCI, FedRAMP, HIPAA, and ISO 9001
- Designed and deployed a custom cloud management platform to manage components, inventory, capacity, self-service operations, and health checks across OpenStack, AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud
- Developed custom tooling to facilitate host infrastructure patching and Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) status reporting, ensuring ongoing security
- Designed and implemented highly available multi-cloud Redis systems across multiple data centers, including a custom CLI for automated DNS management, process control, and service interaction for automated host patching
- Successfully migrated services from bare metal, virtual machines, and Kubernetes to new data centers, ensuring zero operational downtime
- Served as a Software Development Lead, mentoring junior engineers and providing training, code reviews, and technical presentations to colleagues
- Developed custom infrastructure automation tools for deployments, upgrades, service lifecycles, and performance tuning of physical servers and network devices, used by Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) teams
- Developed custom full-stack network engineering tools, including Data Center Infrastructure Management (DCIM), Configuration Management Databases (CMDB), IP Address Management (IPAM), and network monitoring dashboards
- Managed services and participated in a 24/7 on-call rotation, providing support, troubleshooting, root cause analysis, and system restoration

Tech Stack: Python, Django, Linux, Nginx, MySQL, Celery, Redis, RabbitMQ, Docker, Kubernetes, OpenStack, AWS

Equinix (Aug. 2014 – Sept. 2015)

Senior Software Engineer/Automation Engineer

- Developed a web-based platform with tools for generating and tracking customer configurations on production systems, performing Field Implementation Tests, managing equipment, and providing network tools and utilities
- Designed and built an automation framework to support operations on lab equipment from vendors like Juniper, Cisco, Arista, and Ciena, and test equipment like Ixia
- Managed virtual infrastructure, including the setup and configuration of virtual machines, to support lab and production environments
- Managed and mentored interns on their technical projects

Tech Stack: Linux, Python, Django, Apache, MySQL, Bootstrap, Junos, EOS

Broadcom (April 2012 – Aug. 2014)

Senior Tools Engineer

- Managed infrastructure, configurations, and scripts for hourly and nightly builds across 30+ branches within a continuous integration (CI) environment
- Developed a pre-commit source code validation system to ensure code quality prior to Source Code Management (SCM) integration
- Developed automation tools to enforce code compliance, identify build failures, and standardize release packages
- Administered resources including SCM, Coverity, MySQL databases, network filers, utilized by the software organization
- Served as Project Manager for shared network systems and infrastructure supporting multiple international teams, responsible for administration and capacity planning
- Owned large-scale server resources, including capacity planning, budget management, utilization analysis, and business continuity planning

Tech Stack: Linux, Python, Bash, CVS, Git, MySQL, LSF, CI/CD

Taseon (Nov. 2008 – Sept. 2011)

Senior Automation Engineer

- Developed dynamic router simulators using XML, NETCONF, and CLI interfaces to enhance management interface testing, demonstrations, and training
- Enhanced the automated software build qualification process by integrating system setup, execution, result aggregation, and distribution into a dynamic launcher
- Optimized automation efficiency by developing a parallel execution framework
- Developed multi-level build qualification suites to improve overall build quality
- Designed and implemented standardized automated test scripts, test suites, and related documentation
- Developed Python-based tools to monitor Linux processes and automation status to track system usage, stability, and availability
- Implemented an automation test queuing system to maximize equipment utilization and sharing
- Developed custom Python APIs to interface with network devices, servers, and test equipment
- Configured and maintained Linux systems with custom configurations to enhance the automation environment and capacity
- Developed a web infrastructure using LAMP technologies to control automation execution and results analysis, improving visibility of potential test failures and conflicting results

Tech Stack: Linux, Python, Bash, Perforce, CLI, optical networking, test equipment

Education

Bachelors of Science in Information Technology

University of Phoenix

Associate in Science in Electronics Technology

College of San Mateo

Certificate of Completion in Computer Networks

College of San Mateo

Certificate of Completion in Computer Hardware

College of San Mateo

Community

Admin/Organizer of the Spokane Python meetup group (Member of the Python Software Foundation)

Live Site: <https://spokanepython.com/>

GitHub: <https://github.com/SpokaneTech/SpokanePythonWeb>

Founder and Development Lead of SpokaneTech.org – A community resource for the Inland Northwest tech community

Live Site: <https://spokanetech.org/index/>

GitHub: <https://github.com/SpokaneTech/SpokaneTechWeb>

Maintainer of DjangoAddicts – A GitHub organization creating awesome packages for Django projects

GitHub: <https://github.com/djangoaddicts/>