

Forrest Olson

Platform engineer. Reliable systems, quietly built.

Logan, Utah
fs.olson5@gmail.com
github.com/fso5
in/forrest-olson

— SUMMARY

I build and operate *distributed systems where reliability actually matters.*

Platform engineer with 4+ years shipping production infrastructure on AWS EKS, multi-cluster Kubernetes, and event-driven telemetry pipelines. Strong on stateful systems, disaster recovery, and debugging the hard stuff at 3 a.m. AI-augmented engineering workflow as a daily-driver.

— EXPERIENCE

Campbell Scientific

4 yrs 7 mos · current
Logan, UT · Hybrid

Platform Engineer current

Nov 2024 – Present

- Own backend infrastructure for a multi-cluster, event-driven telemetry platform on AWS EKS, supporting life-critical data systems.
- Design and operate distributed services across Kubernetes, Kafka, Knative, and Keycloak — responsible for availability, latency, and reliability.
- Debug complex production issues across networking, databases, and event pipelines, including Cilium clustermesh, PostgreSQL (CloudNativePG), and Knative eventing.
- Led a cross-account AWS migration end-to-end: **~173 GB database recovery, DNS cutover, and infrastructure reconfiguration with zero data loss.**
- Built a **disaster recovery strategy** covering RPO/RTO targets, backup systems, and failure modes for stateful services.
- Resolved GitOps bootstrap dependencies by introducing Terraform-based provisioning for reproducible infrastructure.
- Leverage AI-augmented engineering workflows to navigate large codebases, accelerate development, and ship reliable systems.

DevOps Engineer

Nov 2022 – Oct 2024 · 2 yrs

- Supported production platform across Kubernetes-based infrastructure, debugging issues across networking, PostgreSQL, Redis, and microservices.
- Built and maintained CI/CD pipelines and Helm-based deployment workflows for multi-region environments.
- Improved observability and incident response processes, working closely with engineering and product teams.

QA Engineer

Nov 2021 – Oct 2022 · 1 yr

- Designed and executed test plans for backend systems, validating PostgreSQL, Redis, and microservice integrations.
- Collaborated with engineering teams to identify defects and ensure production readiness of distributed systems.

Olson Family Enterprises

9+ yrs · self-employed
Logan, UT

Owner

A small family concessions business — a long-running side project that keeps me sharp on the non-software side of running things: logistics, hiring, customers, cash. Three brands under one roof:

ofe.llc

sweetclouds.cc

poppinjackskettlecorn.com

Feb 2017 – Present

EscrowTech International

1 yr 6 mos · part-time
Lehi, UT

Technician

– Helped manage IT day-to-day, handled account deposits, and developed an internal web application.

Jan 2020 – Jun 2021

— SELECTED PROJECTS

Cross-account AWS migration, *zero data loss*.

2025

Moved a production telemetry platform between AWS accounts end-to-end: ~173 GB database recovery, DNS cutover, and a full infrastructure reconfiguration. Planned every failure mode, ran the cutover, watched the dashboards stay green.

173 GB recovered · 0 B data lost · 1 cutover window, no rollback

AWS

PostgreSQL

CloudNativePG

DNS

Runbooks

A DR strategy that *actually gets tested*.

2025

Designed and implemented the disaster recovery plan for stateful services on the platform — RPO/RTO targets, backup pipelines, restore drills, and an honest catalogue of failure modes for each service. Built to be exercised, not filed in a wiki.

RTO < 15 min · RPO ≤ 5 min · monthly restore drills

Postgres

VeLero

S3

Runbooks

SL0s

Breaking the *GitOps bootstrap loop*.

2024

ArgoCD wants a cluster; the cluster wants ArgoCD. Introduced Terraform-based provisioning for the underlying infrastructure so new environments come up reproducibly without hand-tending — a chicken-and-egg dance turned into a single command.

hours → minutes for env spin-up · repeatable across regions · declarative end-to-end

Terraform

ArgoCD

HeLm

EKS

AI-augmented engineering, *for real codebases*.

ongoing

A practice more than a single project: agent workflows and coding harnesses tuned for navigating and modifying large infrastructure codebases. Not demos — daily-driver tooling for actual work.

agents

harnesses

evals

codebase nav

— STACK

PLATFORM	Kubernetes · AWS / EKS · Cilium
EVENTS	Kafka · Knative
DATA	PostgreSQL · CloudNativePG · TimescaleDB · Redis
IDENTITY	Keycloak · OAuth / OIDC
IAC / GITOPS	Terraform · ArgoCD · Helm
AI	Agent workflows · coding harnesses · evals

— EDUCATION

Brigham Young University B.S. Computer Science

2018 – 2021

Utah State University A.S. General Studies

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