

Kevin Siemers

Senior DevOps / Container Platform Engineer • Kubernetes • GitOps • SRE • AWS

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

DevOps and Container Platform Engineer with 12+ years of experience, building and operating large-scale Linux and Kubernetes platforms in a global context. Proven record of designing self-service hosting and container platforms serving hundreds of internal teams and business-critical workloads across EMEA and the Americas. Strong background in infrastructure automation, GitOps, observability, and high-availability data services, combined with hands-on experience driving the strategic shift from on-premises to cloud-native hybrid cloud architectures. Trusted technical advisor to development teams, with an ITIL-grounded operations mindset and a track record of cost-efficient, reliable delivery.

CORE SKILLS

- **Cloud:** Hybrid Cloud Architecture with AWS: EKS, Karpenter, Fargate, EC2, CloudWatch, IAM
- **Containers & Orchestration:** Kubernetes, Red Hat OpenShift / OKD, Docker, Podman, Helm, Harbor
- **Infrastructure as Code & Configuration Management:** Terraform, Terragrunt, Ansible (AWX), SaltStack
- **CI/CD & GitOps:** ArgoCD, Git, GitLab, Tekton, OpenShift BuildConfigs
- **AI-Augmented Development:** Prompt engineering, context curation, and agentic AI (Copilot, Claude) for design evaluation, debugging, building scripts and CRUD apps.
- **Policy & Governance:** Kyverno (policy-as-code, admission controls, multi-tenant guardrails), NetworkPolicies
- **Observability:** Prometheus, Grafana, Grafana Alloy, Mimir, Loki, CloudWatch, Nagios, CloudTrail
- **Databases:** PostgreSQL (HA, partitioning, performance tuning, pgpool-II, PITR, backup & restore), DBMOTO
- **Storage:** CSI with NetApp Trident and Pure Portworx
- **Languages & Scripting:** Python, Bash, SQL, HTML/CSS/JavaScript
- **Virtualisation:** VMware vSphere / vCenter
- **Documentation:** Docs-as-Code, AsciiDoc, Antora (multi-repo)
- **Resilience & Security:** Disaster Recovery / BCP planning, dependency matrices, penetration testing
- **Methods:** DevOps, SRE practices, GitOps, Agile/Kanban, ITIL v3, 24/7 on-call

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Container Platform Engineer – Hybrid Cloud (OpenShift + AWS EKS)

Kühne+Nagel, Hamburg, Germany • Apr 2020 – Present

- Operated the global Red Hat OpenShift multi-tenant container platform for **EMEA and the Americas**: two production clusters with **500+ tenant namespaces** and **10,000+ running pods**, plus a dedicated infrastructure cluster for critical services like **Harbor** image registry, in a 4–5 person team.
- Implemented **ArgoCD**-based GitOps for cluster infrastructure and configuration; offered tenant-facing ArgoCD instances as a self-service product.
- Enforced multi-tenant guardrails through **Kyverno** policy-as-code (validation, mutation, and generation policies) covering security context, image provenance, resource requests/limits, and namespace conventions delivered via GitOps for fully auditable governance.
- Designed CI/CD pipelines with **Tekton**, **GitLab CI**, and **OpenShift BuildConfigs**; consulted teams on Helm chart design, deployment patterns, and adapting applications to OpenShift **security context constraints**.
- Owned cluster lifecycle on **CoreOS / VMware vSphere** (MachineSets, MachineConfigPools) with persistent storage via **NetApp Trident** and **Pure Portworx** (CSI).
- Developed **Python and Ansible (AWX)** automation workflows for daily ops; built and maintained the **Prometheus / Grafana** monitoring and alerting stack; participated in 24/7 on-call rotation.

- Authored and maintained the platform's **Disaster Recovery plans** for cyberattack and data centre outage scenarios, including dependency matrix, yearly revision cycles, and validation.
- Established **Docs-as-Code** internal documentation in **AsciiDoc** with multi-repo content sourcing, delivered via a self-developed **Antora**-based pipeline providing versioned releases and change tracking.
- Delivered internal training on Kubernetes onboarding, application containerisation, and cloud-native CI/CD.
- Contributed to the company's hybrid cloud adoption by building the **EKS platform layer** on top of AWS accounts pre-configured by the cloud networking team (VPC, connectivity, baseline security policies).
- Productised both **managed** and **self-managed EKS** offerings, enabling tenant teams to onboard cloud-native workloads with consistent guardrails.
- Implemented **EKS cluster provisioning and lifecycle automation** via **Terraform, ArgoCD, and Helm**, with a central ArgoCD instance delivering GitOps to all managed clusters; optimised scaling and cost-efficiency with **Karpenter** and **Fargate**.
- Built the platform observability stack on **CloudWatch, Grafana Alloy, Mimir, and Loki** for unified metrics, logs, and alerting across hybrid environments.
- Acted as technical advisor to development teams on cloud migration patterns, containerisation, and AWS service adoption.

DevOps System Engineer – Open Source Platform & Automation

Kühne+Nagel, Hamburg, Germany · Jul 2014 – Mar 2020

- Operated **500+ CentOS VMs** across two geographically separated VMware vSphere data centres for all EMEA business units (Contract Logistics, Road, Air, Sea Freight) in a 3–4 person team.
- Standardised hosting (PostgreSQL, JBoss/WildFly, Tomcat, MySQL, Apache, TYPO3) managed via **SaltStack** and later **Ansible**; built **Nagios** monitoring with custom checks and self-healing automations.
- Specialised in **PostgreSQL**: performance tuning, partitioning, backup/restore migrations, and HA replication clusters (cold/hot standby, STONITH failover, **pgpool-II**).
- Delivered **DBMOTO** iSeries-to-PostgreSQL replication and **Pentaho ETL** pipelines powering business-critical dashboards and alerting for **Amazon, Beiersdorf, PepsiCo, Yamaha, Philip Morris, and Weber**.
- **Flagship**: rolled out the Contract Logistics Integrated Platform (CLIP) at the Naugatuck, CT data centre for Amazon, including on-site staff training.
- Built a self-service automation portal (HTML/CSS/JavaScript) for VM and service restarts (Bash/Python); participated in 24/7 on-call.

EDUCATION

- **Fachinformatiker für Systemintegration (IT Specialist for Systems Integration)** – Dual Vocational Program Kühne+Nagel, Hamburg + Berufliche Schule ITECH Elbinsel Wilhelmsburg (BS14) · Aug 2011 – Jun 2014
- **B. Sc. Business Informatics (Wirtschaftsinformatik)** – FOM University of Applied Sciences, Hamburg · Oct 2018 – Feb 2022 · Final grade 1.2 · Bachelor's Thesis 1.0 Part-time degree completed in parallel to full-time employment at Kühne+Nagel. Thesis: high availability of relational databases – a practical, cost-efficient PostgreSQL HA architecture compared to Oracle, applied at Kühne+Nagel.

CERTIFICATIONS

- **CKS** – Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist · Dec 2023
- **CKA** – Certified Kubernetes Administrator · Oct 2023
- **ITIL v3 Foundation**

LANGUAGES

- **German** – Native
- **English** – C1 / Professional Working Proficiency