Jason Grey

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Professional Profile

A systems-focused engineer with 40+ years of hands-on experience, from bare metal to petabyte-scale distributed infrastructure. Deep roots in Unix/Linux systems administration, automation, database management, and high-traffic web architecture. Equally comfortable debugging a kernel panic, tuning a MariaDB cluster, or designing deployment pipelines that serve billions of requests.

Core Technical Skills

Operating Systems: Linux (Debian/Ubuntu, RHEL/CentOS, Arch), FreeBSD, Unix-like environments. Deep experience with systemd, networking stack, filesystem tuning, and kernel-level troubleshooting.
Infrastructure & Automation: Ansible, Docker, Kubernetes, Helm, Terraform. CI/CD via GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Bitbucket Pipelines. Strong belief in infrastructure-as-code and eliminating manual toil.
Databases: 30+ years across MySQL/MariaDB, PostgreSQL, MSSQL, Redis, MongoDB, ElasticSearch, DynamoDB, Cassandra. Performance tuning, replication, clustering, schema design.
Scripting & Languages: Python, Go, Rust, Perl, Shell (Bash/Zsh). Comfortable writing system-level tooling, automation scripts, and CLI utilities from scratch.
Web Infrastructure: Apache HTTPD, Nginx, reverse proxy configuration, TLS/SSL management, load balancing, CDN integration. Experience architecting for billion-page-view-per-day traffic levels.
Monitoring & Observability: Custom metric collection pipelines, log aggregation, alerting design. Built monitoring for petabyte-scale data processing systems.
Storage & Filesystems: ZFS, NFS, network-attached storage, S3-compatible object stores. Experience managing multi-petabyte data at Common Crawl.
Networking & Security: Firewall configuration (iptables, UFW), VPN, TCP/IP protocol debugging, DNS, MTA administration (Postfix). Member of EFF; security-first mindset.
Hardware: x86-64 and ARM platforms. History of co-location and physical datacenter management.
Cloud Platforms: AWS (early adopter, pre-2008), Azure, Google Cloud, Rackspace. Virtualization via KVM, VMWare, Hyper-V, VirtualBox.

Key Experience

Kagi.com (consulting)

June 2025 - Present

Team lead for top company priority: AI Context layer + Internal Search Index
Infrastructure and systems architecture for search platform

Sr. Engineer at Common Crawl Foundation (1 year contract)

Feb 2024 - Mar 2025

Built and maintained Apache Spark jobs processing 9PB+ of web crawl data across distributed clusters
Orchestrated data pipelines with Apache Airflow, managing scheduling, integrity checks, and failure recovery
Refactored index server infrastructure: modernized deployment, automated rate limiting and ACL management
Improved documentation, monitoring, and operational runbooks for the crawl processing pipeline

CTO at Warecorp

Jan 2017 - Oct 2025

Managed infrastructure and deployment architecture for clients ranging from NVIDIA to early-stage startups
Designed and operated containerized deployment pipelines (Docker, Kubernetes, Helm)
Administered database clusters (PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, Redis) across multiple client environments
Maintained CI/CD systems, monitoring, and incident response processes

Sr. Vice President, Chief of Technology at Life Time Fitness

Jan 2012 - Aug 2015

Managed 250-person IT/Engineering organization including infrastructure, networking, and systems teams
Modernized data warehousing, established enterprise architecture practices, and led platform migrations
Oversaw datacenter operations, vendor management, and technology procurement

Earlier Systems & Infrastructure Work

Co-location and physical datacenter management (self-hosted infrastructure)
Early AWS adopter (S3, SQS, EC2 era) — built distributed systems on cloud before it was mainstream
Built and operated Hadoop/HDFS clusters for hyper-local news aggregation (2008)
Extensive consulting across Target, Nike, United Health Group, 5/3 Bank, Kenneth Cole, and Bauer Hockey

Full history: https://www.linkedin.com/in/jasongrey/

Open Source & Community

Active contributor to open source projects; authored CLI tools in Rust (gz-inspector, Eddie search engine)
Member of ACM, IEEE, AAAI, EFF
Technical writer — publishes on systems architecture, distributed systems, and infrastructure topics