

ELIJAH GRADY

Staff Software Engineer | Infrastructure, Platform, Product, AI




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SUMMARY

Staff-level software engineer with 13+ years of experience architecting high-impact products and platforms across frontend, backend, cloud infrastructure, and AI. Expertise spans software architecture, object-oriented engineering, distributed systems, platform engineering, observability, traditional machine learning, neural networks, and modern generative AI systems. I build high-leverage platforms, automation, and AI-powered workflows that accelerate software delivery, improve reliability, empower engineers, delight customers, and create measurable business value at organizational scale.

EXPERIENCE

-  **Senior Site Reliability Engineer** 2023 - 2026
Drata
 - Led tiger teams for Drata's key initiatives, redesigning caching architecture to cut P50 load times from 3.5+ sec to under 250ms (~14x faster), improving scalability, reliability, and customer experience.
 - Managed observability, performance, reliability for 100+ services. Set technical direction for platform health, database performance, cloud infrastructure, capacity planning, and cost optimization.
 - Built Drata's reliability platform, standardizing observability, SLOs, error budgets, alerting, incident response, and reviews. Reduced MTTR by 40%, improving operational maturity.
 - Technical advisor shaping strategy, consulting on architecture, leading office hours, mentoring engineers, and driving cross-functional initiatives.
 - Implemented reliability engineering, achieving 99.999% availability. Surpassed SLOs in backend services, caching, databases, network dependencies, and infrastructure.
-  **Senior Site Reliability Engineer** 2019 - 2023
BLUE ORIGIN
 - Developed and secured telemetry for lunar mapping in BK1/Blue Moon missions, enhancing software observability, reliability, and confidence.
 - Led technical strategy and design for monitoring systems, test frameworks, and spaceflight tools. Enabled engineers to validate systems, diagnose failures, and improve mission resilience.
 - Delivered software that remains active in current M4 launch systems, contributing to long-lived telemetry and reliability capabilities for production aerospace missions.
-  **Senior Machine Learning Infrastructure Engineer** 2015 - 2019
Mercedes-Benz
 - Led ML infrastructure for large-scale experiments and AI systems. Enabled reproducible model development, scalable training, and cost-effective ML operations for North America engineering.
 - Operated platforms for model experimentation, evaluation, deployment, and observability, helping teams move machine learning workloads from research prototypes into reliable production systems.
 - Partnered with teams to standardize ML practices, improve reproducibility, reduce operational overhead, and accelerate AI delivery.

SKILLS

Leadership

Technical Strategy · Architecture · Platform Strategy · Engineering Leverage · Cross-Functional Execution · Reliability Strategy · Incident Leadership · Executive Communication

Languages

Bash · Go · JavaScript · Python · SQL · TypeScript · CSS · HCL · HTML · JSON · Markdown · YAML

Cloud & Infrastructure

AWS · GCP · Azure · Kubernetes · Docker · Terraform · Linux · Helm · ArgoCD · Karpenter · Atlantis · Pulumi · Infrastructure as Code · High Availability · Multi-Region Systems · Cost Analysis

AI & Machine Learning

Generative AI · Agentic AI · LLMs · AI Agents · Neural Networks · Deep Learning · ML Infrastructure · Model Training · Model Evaluation · Model Deployment · RAG · Embeddings · Vector Search · Prompt Engineering

Observability

Datadog · OpenTelemetry · Prometheus · Grafana · APM · Distributed Tracing · Metrics · Logs · Traces · Dashboards · Monitors · Alerting · SLOs · SLIs · Error Budgets · MTTR · Postmortems · Root Cause Analysis

EXPERIENCE



Machine Learning Engineer

2013 - 2015

[StratumPoint](#)

- Developed machine learning software for counter-terrorism intelligence workflows as a civilian contractor supporting U.S. Navy special operations stakeholders.
- Built custom neural networks and event-detection algorithms to analyze high-volume social media firehose data, identifying signals, anomalies, and emerging threats from unstructured real-time data streams.
- Designed early AI/ML systems without modern frameworks. Built custom data pipelines, classification models, and learning algorithms for key intelligence analysis.

EDUCATION



BS, Computer Science

2012 - 2013

[University of San Diego](#)



BA, Chinese Language

2012 - 2013

[Peking University](#)

CERTIFICATIONS

[AWS Solutions Architect](#)

Professional (2023)

[CNCF Kubernetes Administrator](#)

Certified (2023)

[Datadog Observability Engineer](#)

Architect (2023)

[HashiCorp Terraform Operator](#)

Author (2023)

AWARDS



Outstanding Courage in Lifesaving Action

2025

Recognized by the Mayor and Redmond Fire Department for lifesaving action during a medical emergency after performing 20+ minutes of CPR and AED intervention until emergency responders arrived.

SKILLS

Backend

Distributed Systems · APIs · REST APIs ·
Microservices · System Design ·
Object-Oriented Design · Caching ·
Queues · Async Processing ·
Authentication · Authorization · RBAC ·
Rate Limiting · Idempotency · Scalability ·
Reliability

Frontend

React · TypeScript · JavaScript · Vite ·
Tailwind CSS · HTML · CSS ·
Frontend Architecture ·
Component Design · State Management ·
API Integration · Responsive Design ·
Web Performance · Accessibility

Database

PostgreSQL · Redis · OpenSearch · SQL ·
Query Optimization · Indexing ·
Schema Design · Data Modeling ·
Connection Pooling ·
Database Performance · Backups ·
Replication · Distributed Caching ·
High Availability · Capacity Planning

CI/CD & Delivery

GitHub Actions · GitLab CI · ArgoCD ·
Atlantis · Terraform Automation ·
Docker Images · Deployment Pipelines ·
Release Engineering ·
Canary Deployments ·
Blue/Green Deployments · Rollbacks ·
Automated Testing

Networking & Security

TCP/IP · DNS · TLS · HTTP · HTTPS ·
Load Balancing · Subnets · Firewalls ·
Private Networking · IAM · RBAC ·
Secrets Management · SOPS · Encryption ·
Certificates · Audit Logging ·
Compliance Engineering · Least Privilege