Damon Krause Staff Platform Engineer

Westlake, TX · damon.krause@gmail.com · +1 817-555-0176 · linkedin.com/in/damonkrause

PROFILE SUMMARY

- **Staff Platform Engineer** with **11 years** in platform and software engineering at **Charles Schwab** and **Southwest Airlines**, setting technical direction for an internal developer platform used by thousands of engineers.
- Deep in **Backstage**, **Red Hat OpenShift** and Amazon EKS, **Jenkins** and Argo CD, **Terraform**, **OPA Gatekeeper** and Vault, with Java, Go and Python for platform services and plugins.
- Known for **platform consolidation**, **paved roads for regulated releases** and **policy as code in place of manual approvals**, measured with DORA metrics and a quarterly developer survey.
- Works with **engineering VPs**, risk and compliance, **internal audit** and app teams across the brokerage, turning SOX and FINRA controls into checks developers see in their pipeline.
- Mentors **staff and senior engineers** across 3 platform teams, chairs the **platform architecture review**, and wrote the deprecation policy every platform service follows.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Developer Portals & Templates:	Backstage, Backstage Software Templates, TechDocs, custom Backstage plugins
Kubernetes & Containers:	Red Hat OpenShift, Amazon EKS, Kubernetes, Helm
CI/CD & GitOps:	Jenkins, Argo CD, GitHub Actions
Infrastructure as Code:	Terraform, Terraform Enterprise, Crossplane (pilot)
Cloud Platforms:	AWS, Microsoft Azure
Policy, Security & Secrets:	OPA Gatekeeper, Conftest, HashiCorp Vault
Languages & Observability:	Java, Go, Python, OpenTelemetry, Splunk

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin — **B.S. in Computer Science** — Austin, TX · Aug 2011 to May 2015

WORK EXPERIENCE

Charles Schwab — **Staff Platform Engineer** — Westlake, TX · Mar 2020 to Present

- Wrote the platform strategy RFC that merged 3 internal platforms into one product with a single roadmap and intake, approved by engineering leadership, cutting duplicate tooling spend by **$2.1M** a year.
- Designed the paved road for Java and Python services on **Backstage** Software Templates with OpenTelemetry, audit logging and the regulated release workflow built in, now the start for **85%** of new services.
- Led the **Backstage** rollout to 4,000 engineers with a 6,500-component catalog and scorecards for patch level, raising services that meet the patch standard from 62% to **94%**.
- Turned 40 manual change-approval checks into **OPA Gatekeeper** and Conftest policies that run in every pipeline and send evidence to the audit system, cutting approval time from 3 days to **4 hours**.
- Built the developer experience scorecard from DORA metrics, onboarding time and a quarterly survey, reviewed with engineering VPs, and cut new hire time to first production commit from 6 weeks to **8 days**.

Southwest Airlines — **Senior Software Engineer** — Dallas, TX · Jul 2015 to Feb 2020

- Helped move **120** booking and loyalty services from VMs onto shared **Red Hat OpenShift** clusters, and wrote the namespace onboarding playbook teams used to move themselves.
- Replaced hand-run release scripts with a shared **Jenkins** pipeline and blue-green deploys for the booking site, cutting release-night rollbacks from 1 in 5 releases to **1 in 40**.
- Wrote versioned **Terraform** modules for AWS accounts, VPCs and RDS databases with an approval workflow, so app teams got a new environment in **2 days** instead of 3 weeks.