

Jacob Nollette

Minneapolis, MN

jacob@jacobnollette.com | 952-428-9199

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Cloud & Self-Hosting DevOps Engineer who thrives on turning complex infrastructure challenges into streamlined, automated realities. Passionate about building resilient CI/CD pipelines, containerized platforms, and virtual appliances that just keep running—securely, efficiently, and at scale. Equally at home in hyperscale clouds (GCP, AWS, Azure) and in the basement data-center lab, translating cutting-edge ideas into production-ready systems. A self-hosting evangelist, open-source nonprofit volunteer, and perpetual learner who brings art-school creativity and yogic calm to every engineering problem.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- **CI/CD & Automation:** Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Terraform, Packer, CloudFormation, Docker, Bash, Groovy
- **Cloud & Virtualization:** Kubernetes, Proxmox, Hyper-V, VMware, GCP, AWS, Azure, DigitalOcean, Hetzner
- **Networking & Security:** UniFi, pfSense, Tailscale, HAProxy, NGINX, IAM design, MFA rollouts, OWASP hardening
- **Storage & Data:** Ceph, ZFS, MinIO (S3), GlusterFS, MySQL administration, disaster-recovery automation
- **Programming & Scripting:** Bash, Go, Groovy, PHP, JavaScript
- **Tooling & Platforms:** WordPress, Retool, FFmpeg, Rclone, Jira, Confluence, Notion, VS Code, ChatGPT, Ollama, n8n
- **Collaboration Suites:** Google Workspace, Microsoft 365, OpenWebUI, GitLab, GitHub, Bitbucket

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DevOps Engineer — TSI Inc.

Shoreview, MN | 2022 – Present

- Designed and rolled out end-to-end CI/CD pipelines that cut release cycles from weeks to hours.
- Authored reusable pipeline templates, slashing maintenance overhead across dozens of microservices.
- Championed IaC with Packer & Docker, packaging a low-code appliance for friction-free deployment on any platform.
- Launched a targeted MFA program for engineering accounts, tightening security controls without slowing adjacent teams down.
- Rooted out supply-chain vulnerabilities and endpoint anomalies, reducing critical findings on a routine cadence.
- Served as the go-to platform engineer for disaster-recovery automation, Jira/Confluence/Bitbucket tuning, and PM query optimization.

DevOps Consultant — North Shore Automation

Los Angeles, CA | 2022 – Present

- Uncovered bottlenecks in DAM and media workflows, unlocking smoother ingest and distribution pipelines.
- Built vendor-agnostic delivery pipelines capable of running anywhere—from bare metal to the biggest clouds.
- Orchestrated a full migration to GitHub Actions, modernizing build velocity and visibility.
- Hardened edge load-balancers against OWASP Top 10, improving security posture.
- Wrote Go-based webhook load-test suites for AI-driven media workflows, ensuring predictable scaling under peak load.
- Terraform-templated AWS regions for push-button, repeatable deployments.

IT Systems Manager — Little Sand Lake Area Association

Dorset, MN | 2018 – Present

- Automated membership operations with WordPress forms, payment portals, and CMS enhancements—freeing volunteers to focus on mission, not paperwork.
- Produced multimedia—graphics, video, livestreams—elevating community engagement and archival quality.
- Secured hyperscale grant credits to drive costs near zero while extending reach to members away from general service zones.
- Implemented resilient multi-cloud DR, real-time canary alerts, and Google Workspace automation.

Founder & Principal — Self-Hosting Lab (JacobNollette.com LLC)

Minneapolis, MN | 2005 – Present

- Runs a multi-site private-cloud playground: Kubernetes clusters, Ceph/ZFS storage, GPU-accelerated AI workloads, and Proxmox-backed VM fleets.
- Engineered site-to-site network meshes, and edge load balancing with UniFi, Tailscale, pfSense, and Cloudflare, delivering zero-trust access and RBAC governance.
- Automates everything—health checks, Ceph healing, PBS differential backups, ZFS snapshots, SyncThing replication, Ollama caching and load-balancing, and more.
- Builds real-time media inject optimizations (with FFMPEG and TDARR) — for S3-driven DR lifecycles, and less vendor lock-in.
- Experiments relentlessly with storage abstractions, GPU scheduling, and AI/LLM edge deployments—then rolls lessons back into professional solutions.

Systems Engineer — LuminFire

Minneapolis, MN | 2018 – 2022

- Led migration from Bitbucket Cloud to self-hosted GitLab, tightening feedback loops and boosting velocity.
- Deployed Dockerized CI/CD infrastructure that scaled seamlessly with project demands.

- Authored CloudFormation templates for instant, repeatable web-app environments in AWS.
 - Implemented ZFS-backed TrueNAS storage and automated DR snapshots, safeguarding over creative assets.
 - Rolled out MFA, MDM, and zero-trust policies across the company, elevating security while preserving developer agility.
 - Built custom WordPress and web-application GUIs, marrying performance with pixel-perfect design.
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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Web & Screen Environments

Minneapolis College of Art and Design — Minneapolis, MN | 2020

- Integrated design theory, typography, and interactive media into full-stack development projects.
 - Produced installations, motion graphics, and film works—cultivating a cross-disciplinary approach to problem-solving.
 - Designed and fabricated furniture and sculpture out of modern materials - such as laminated plywood and machined metals.
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EXTRA BITS

- Yogi and mindfulness advocate—brings calm focus to incident response and high-stakes releases.
- Enthusiastic open-source community member, and advocate for non-profits using open-source and artisan software.
- Known for resurrecting decommissioned enterprise hardware and turning it into high-performance labs.