

KENSTON O'NEAL

Senior Software Engineer | DevOps & Cloud-Native Systems

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior software engineer with 10+ years of experience building cloud-native, event-driven systems on AWS and Kubernetes. Designs and ships production microservices, REST and GraphQL APIs, and pub/sub data pipelines that move high-frequency events between distributed systems. Hands-on with Docker, Helm, GitHub Actions, and Terraform; comfortable owning a service from edge to cloud — manifests, ingress, observability, and CI/CD. Background spans logistics, supply chain, healthcare, fintech, and blockchain — with a track record of bridging operational hardware/data systems to modern cloud platforms. Daily user of AI coding assistants (Claude Code, Cursor, GitHub Copilot) for rapid prototyping, refactoring, and documentation. Based in Chattanooga; pursuing an M.S. in Computer Science.

CORE SKILLS

- **Cloud & Orchestration:** AWS (EKS, Lambda, SNS/SQS, S3, IAM), Kubernetes, Helm, Docker, Ingress Controllers, Terraform
- **Languages:** Go (Golang), Python, Node.js / TypeScript, C# / .NET, JavaScript, SQL
- **APIs & Protocols:** REST, GraphQL (gqlgen), gRPC, JSON, Protobuf, OAuth2/OIDC (Auth0), WebSockets
- **Event-Driven & Messaging:** Kafka, SNS/SQS, AWS EventBridge, Temporal.io, pub/sub patterns (transferable to MQTT / Sparkplug B / NATS / RabbitMQ)
- **DevOps & CI/CD:** GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins, Git, Infrastructure-as-Code, automated testing & deployment
- **Data:** PostgreSQL, Cassandra (NoSQL), DynamoDB, Ent ORM; comfortable with time-series workloads
- **Observability:** OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, Splunk, structured logging & distributed tracing
- **AI-Accelerated Development:** Claude Code, Cursor, GitHub Copilot for rapid prototyping, refactoring legacy code, and maintaining docs; familiarity with tool-calling LLM workflows

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Software Engineer | Hedera Foundation

Remote / United States • Jun 2025 – Present

- Design and ship full-stack services in Go and Next.js/React, contributing to an API-first architecture for a public web3 platform.
- Build and optimize GraphQL APIs (gqlgen) backed by PostgreSQL with the Ent ORM, exposing data to internal teams and customer-facing applications.
- Containerize services with Docker and orchestrate deployments on Kubernetes, including writing manifests and managing ingress.
- Stand up observability with Prometheus and Grafana to monitor performance, latency, and system health across distributed services.
- Implement secure authentication and authorization flows with Auth0 (OAuth2/OIDC).
- Mentor junior engineers and codify engineering best practices for testing, documentation, and code review.

Senior Software Engineer | Rialtic

Remote • Oct 2023 – Jun 2025

- Designed and operated high-performance distributed services in Go on AWS and Kubernetes (EKS), powering enterprise data ingestion, distribution, and reporting pipelines.
- Built event-driven backend services using Kafka and AWS SNS/SQS, applying pub/sub patterns to deliver low-latency communication across microservices.
- Authored REST APIs consumed by enterprise healthcare partners; ensured contract clarity, versioning, and backward compatibility.
- Containerized services with Docker, automated deployments through CI/CD, and tuned Kubernetes workloads (resources, probes, autoscaling) to improve reliability.
- Wrote comprehensive unit and integration tests; contributed to platform-level performance and observability improvements.
- Mentored engineers and helped scale a platform tackling inefficiencies in a \$1T healthcare market.

Senior Software Engineer | American Express

Phoenix, AZ (Remote) • Mar 2023 – Oct 2023

- Built scalable Go microservices for AmEx's backend infrastructure, with Kafka-driven event streaming for high-throughput pub/sub workloads.

- Used Temporal.io to orchestrate long-running, stateful workflows across distributed systems.
- Implemented gRPC for low-latency inter-service communication and GraphQL for flexible data access.
- Automated CI/CD with GitHub Actions, accelerating deployment cycles and improving release reliability.
- Instrumented services with OpenTelemetry and Splunk for proactive monitoring, tracing, and incident response.
- Managed Cassandra clusters, balancing consistency, availability, and partition tolerance under production load.

Senior Software Engineer | Starlight Technologies

Remote • May 2022 – Feb 2023

- Architected and operated scalable distributed systems in Go on AWS EKS (Kubernetes), including manifests, Helm charts, and ingress configuration.
- Built and managed end-to-end CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions and Terraform (Infrastructure-as-Code) to automate testing and deployment.
- Designed and maintained GraphQL APIs powering customer-facing products.
- Advised executive stakeholders on technology choices, standards, and engineering best practices.

Senior Software Engineer | Skuid

Chattanooga, TN • Mar 2020 – Jun 2022

- Built backend services and integrations in Node.js and Go for a SaaS application platform; drove architecture decisions and produced clear documentation, diagrams, and code reviews.

Chief Technology Officer | EirSystems Inc.

Chattanooga, TN • Sep 2018 – Mar 2020

- Set technical vision; built REST APIs (Java/Spring) and React frontends; developed Hyperledger Fabric chaincode in Go.
- Established company CI/CD standards and managed cloud infrastructure on AWS and IBM Cloud.

Senior Software Engineer | Check Into Cash

Chattanooga, TN • Apr 2018 – Oct 2018

- Led a 3–4 person Agile team building C# / .NET Core services and Angular front-ends; owned production incident response.

Technical Services Consultant | Asysco Legacy Transformation

Atlanta, GA Area • Oct 2016 – Apr 2018

- Built support tooling in PowerShell and C#; owned full migration lifecycle from site survey through go-live and onsite customer support.

Software Engineer | Coyote Logistics

Chattanooga, TN • Jan 2015 – Oct 2016

- Built scalable C# / VB.NET services and contributed to system architecture for logistics and supply-chain workflows.

.NET Applications Developer | BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee

Chattanooga, TN • Feb 2014 – Jan 2015

- Designed and integrated information systems for a major insurance carrier; responded to system failures to minimize downtime.

Earlier: Data Services Engineer, Advent Health Partners (2014); Programmer Analyst Intern & Desktop Support Intern, Tennessee Valley Authority (2012–2013).

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

M.S., Computer Science — *in progress*

B.S., Computer Science — Software Systems, Minor: Business Administration • *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (2009–2014)*

Certifications: Ultimate Go • Hands-On Introduction: JavaScript • The DOM in JavaScript, jQuery, AngularJS, and React