Joshua Powers

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Senior Engineering Manager with 6 years leading remote infrastructure and supply chain security teams. At Chainguard, I took CVE remediation from missing its target more than 90% of the time to 99% or better SLA attainment by pairing automation with AI agents. I build teams that set clear targets, measure results honestly, and automate manual work so engineers can focus on harder problems.

Experience

Chainguard

2024 – Present

Senior Engineering Manager

- Built the Sustaining team to 18 engineers to handle CVE and package work by hand. Then built and now lead Sustaining Automation, growing it from 3 to 11 engineers, to keep that team small. Our automation lets us fix more CVEs and maintain more packages for Wolfi and Chainguard Images without hiring dozens more engineers.
- Hired and grew engineers across the Sustaining teams, and led promotions at several levels, including into Staff and Principal roles.
- Took remediation from missing our internal 2-day target more than 90% of the time to meeting it consistently. Attainment of the customer SLAs (1 day for known exploited vulnerabilities, 7 days for critical, 14 days for high and below) now holds at 99% or better for each customer.
- Set the team's automation direction: structural automation first, then AI agents for the cases it misses. Raised the success rate of automated pull requests from under 20% to over 90%, so the team kept up as AI drove up the number of new CVEs in 2026. Built the agent skills that turn maintainer knowledge into repeatable steps for new packages and package migrations.
- Own the platform behind this work: dozens of services for CVE remediation, package updates, and agentic version discovery, written in Go and managed with Terraform, that build thousands of packages a day and more than 2,500 container images.
- Act as the team's product manager: set its vision, roadmap, and objectives. Built the metrics and KPIs the organization uses to set priorities and staffing.
- Incident commander for customer-facing incidents across time zones, some under customer SLAs. Assigned owners, drove each incident to resolution, ran customer communication, and completed postmortems that changed our processes so the same failure did not happen again.
- Deliver FIPS, FedRAMP, and STIG hardening for regulated and government customers, with public security advisories.

InfluxData

2021 – 2024

Engineering Manager & Senior Software Engineer

- Led the fully remote Telegraf team. Partnered with product management to turn customer and user needs into the roadmap, and mentored engineers into senior and maintainer roles.
- Maintained Telegraf, the open source metrics agent (17,000+ GitHub stars, 600 million+ Docker pulls, 350+ plugins). Owned releases, code review, and the plugin ecosystem for three years, including after moving into management.
- Started daily triage of user and customer issues, so every new issue got a response within a day instead of going unanswered. Cut open issues by 75% while more people contributed.
- Replaced release candidates, which years of data showed produced almost no user feedback, with nightly builds and test builds for each pull request, so users could test a fix before it merged instead of waiting weeks for a release candidate.
- Added integration, performance, and fuzz testing and automated security notices to the release pipeline.

Canonical

2016 – 2021

Engineering Manager, Public Cloud

- Led delivery of Ubuntu cloud images to Google Cloud (GCE and GKE), with daily releases in many image formats. Included Common Criteria and FIPS hardening and fast CVE fixes, and advised cloud partners on security practices.

Engineering Manager, Ubuntu Server

- Grew the worldwide remote Ubuntu Server team from 6 to 14 engineers.
- Led the Ubuntu Server team through the Ubuntu 20.04 LTS release.
- Set and kept the release roadmap for Ubuntu Server and cloud-init, including work for AWS, our largest customer.
- Built the metrics method Canonical leadership used to decide where to invest in Ubuntu Server.
- Created the cloud-init security disclosure process, moved the project from Launchpad to GitHub, and ran the yearly cloud-init summit with Amazon, Microsoft, Google, Cisco, Oracle, Red Hat, and SUSE.

Senior Software Engineer

- Built the CI pipelines, merge review system, daily builds, and integration test framework for cloud-init, which runs at first boot on nearly every instance on every major cloud. Took over leading the team in 2018.

Hewlett Packard

2009 – 2016

Senior Software Engineer

- Built a hardened Debian-based operating system used across HP product lines, plus performance and automated test systems for enterprise servers.

Skills

Leadership: Hiring, coaching, and promotions · Roadmaps with product management · Planning across teams · SLAs, KPIs, and engineering metrics · Incident command and postmortems · AI-assisted engineering · Remote teams across time zones

Technical: Go · Linux · Terraform · AWS and Google Cloud · Docker and OCI containers · Kubernetes · CI/CD and GitHub Actions · Release engineering · Software supply chain security (CVE remediation, SBOM) · FIPS, FedRAMP, STIG, and Common Criteria · Observability (Telegraf, Prometheus, Grafana) · AI agents and agent skills

Education

M.S. Computer Science (Interactive Intelligence), Georgia Institute of Technology
B.A. Economics and **B.S. Applied Computing Technology**, Colorado State University