

# brett neese

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## + summary

With experience in both technical and nontechnical roles – and an international perspective – I aim to empower development teams and digital artists build, ship, and scale faster – and more reliably – through automation, effective systems design, and cloud technologies.

## + employment

**HBK Engineering** Chicago, Illinois (Remote)  
Software Developer (DevOps and Backend)  
Sept. 2015 to Current

Lead DevOps and cloud infrastructure for a small team working on cloud-based GIS tools within one of the largest utility engineering firms in the country, including:

- Built our AWS cloud from the scratch utilizing Terraform and CloudFormation; reducing costs and empowering developers to quickly deploy their own services backed by AWS
- Refactored our Node.js codebase from a single on-premises server into one composing of dozens of scalable, resilient microservices; increasing reliability from multiple extended downtimes per month to virtually none
- Implemented a CI/CD and testing workflow for our services using CircleCI; increasing developer productivity from one deploy per month to multiple deploys per day
- Built microservices in Node.js and Go to handle backend functionality such as distributed notifications and geometry conversion; greatly increasing site reliability and functionality

**StudentRND** Seattle, Washington (Remote)  
Partnerships Director  
Aug. 2013 to Aug. 2015

Built a technology-driven sales team at a top-tier technology education nonprofit.

- Managed and trained a team of 30 volunteers to peruse local sponsorship for events in their city; increasing revenue
- Recruited sponsors and pursued strategic alliances with other organizations; expanding our footprint and program offerings
- Built custom tools to manage these processes; unlocking the power of automation and decreasing staff cost
- Helped run over 30 hackathons and tech events across the country, 3 times per year; empowering tens of thousands of students to get excited about coding

**Domiknow** Des Moines, Iowa  
Web Development Intern  
Summer 2012

Built websites for local businesses using HTML, PHP, JavaScript, and an in-house CMS.

- Redesigned a local restaurant's website; increasing their online presence and customer base
- Built tools to automate social media campaigns; expanding the reach of our messages
- Collaborated to explore new ways of reaching customers; empowering future company growth

**Little Springs Design** Lawrence, Kansas  
UX Intern  
Summer 2009

Worked on improving mobile user experiences.

- Organized and rewrote important requirements and specification documentation; helping developers design more consistent user experiences
- Participated in design, brainstorming, and feedback processes with clients; leading to much improved mobile user experiences for their customers
- Explored new user interaction tools and paradigms; setting the stage for new research in the field

## + education

**Iowa State University; DePaul University**

2012–2016

Philosophy + Global Asian Studies

**Hong Kong Baptist University**  
Study Abroad

Economics + Communication

**University of Virginia**  
Semester at Sea – Northern Europe

Business + Social Entrepreneurship

## + certifications

**AWS Certified Solutions Architect (Associate)** 2017

## + skills snapshot

### TECHNICAL      NONTECHNICAL

Terraform	Sales Pipelines
Docker	Agile Development
CircleCI	Technical Writing
Ansible	Lean Methodology
Jenkins	Project Management
MongoDB	Entrepreneurship
Redis	Product Development
Go	Community Development
Kibana/ES	
Node.js	
Serverless	
Git	
AWS CloudFormation	
AWS Lambda	
AWS ECS	
AWS EC2	