

Agustín Castro

Infrastructure & DevOps Engineering Leader — Head of Infrastructure at Zyte

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Hands-on infrastructure leader with 20 years in production systems and 9 years leading the function. I design, migrate and operate high-availability platforms across public cloud and bare metal, own the budget and the vendor relationships, and build the remote teams that keep it all up. Certified Ubiquiti AirMax engineer; incident commander by role and by temperament.

EXPERIENCE

Head of Infrastructure — Zyte (formerly Scrapinghub)

Aug 2017 — Present · Remote

- Built the infrastructure team from scratch to nine engineers across the globe — hiring, onboarding, career paths and coaching — supporting 300+ internal users and every production platform.
- Planned and led the migration of the company's platform storage: a Hadoop/HBase cluster holding roughly 500 TB of customer data, taken through full production cutover and legacy hardware decommissioning.
- Drove the Mesos-to-Kubernetes transition, replacing a 140-node Mesos cluster with on-prem Kubernetes, alongside 100+ node managed clusters (GKE, EKS) and 170+ node highly available bare-metal estates.
- Ran a multi-year cost programme across cloud and on-prem — committed-use discounts, storage and logging optimisation, workload right-sizing, and a full cloud-provider exit — reaching about \$40k in monthly recurring savings with no loss of performance or capacity.
- Delivered the infrastructure workstream for ISO 27001: rewrote processes and security policies, co-led audit reporting across the database, storage and directory backends, and signed off validated results.
- Designed and implemented the company-wide incident response process, established the post-mortem culture behind it, and act as incident commander for the highest-severity incidents.
- Completed 80+ OS upgrades and legacy decommissions with zero user disruption, upgraded foundational systems untouched since their original deployment, enabled IPv6, modernised the web load-balancer tier and standardised a highly available monitoring stack.
- Led the technical response to a sensitive customer-facing security incident — forensics, root-cause analysis, executive reporting and a joint presentation with Legal — retaining the customer's trust and their business.
- Own the infrastructure budget end to end: cost allocation, forecasting with Finance, and vendor negotiation across bare-metal and GPU providers, including expanding GPU capacity at cost-neutral spend.

DevOps Engineer · Systems Administrator — Scrapinghub

Mar 2015 — Aug 2017 · Remote

- Operated production Mesos clusters of 100+ nodes running Zookeeper, Marathon, Consul, HAProxy and Nginx for both product and internal applications.
- Wrote the Python automation that took the platform from manual on-prem deploys to fully automated cloud provisioning on AWS EC2, and later GCP — cutting deploy time and the number of engineers needed to run it. Introduced SaltStack for role-based configuration of the fleet.
- MySQL DBA for a Percona XtraDB cluster, with a tested disaster-recovery plan built on several in-sync offsite replicas.
- Built and ran a 7-broker Apache Kafka cluster, a ClickHouse cluster, and a hot/warm Elasticsearch architecture for internal logging.
- Developed CI/CD pipelines, managed the AWS estate end to end (EC2, load balancers, Route53, CloudFront, S3, RDS, IAM, KMS), and supported developers shipping containerised applications.

Head of Information Technology — Ikatu · Bang & Olufsen Uruguay

Apr 2007 — Feb 2015 · Montevideo · 60% remote

- Designed and deployed VoIP infrastructure on Asterisk across 10+ branch offices in multiple countries, plus a dedicated client-monitoring VPN network built on OpenWRT and OpenVPN.
- Built centralised monitoring for ~70 network devices and servers with Zabbix and SMS/XMPP alerting — years before anyone called it observability.
- Administered Debian, Ubuntu, FreeBSD and Windows estates, KVM/QEMU virtualisation, mail (Postfix, Qmail), DNS, OpenLDAP, firewalls, Cisco layer-3 switching and Juniper routing.
- Delivered company-wide backup on Bacula, self-hosted collaboration and ticketing, and IPsec/OpenVPN connectivity between sites.

Systems Administrator · Assistant Professor (Gr. 1) — Instituto Crandon · Universidad de la República

Sep 2004 — Apr 2007 · Montevideo

Early career, running real infrastructure young: a 250-desktop, 20-server school network on Exchange, Active Directory and Fortinet, and at the university's nursing faculty, the institution's first firewall and its mail and web infrastructure — while teaching and supporting users.

SELECTED WIRELESS WORK

- Engineered a 1.5 km 5 GHz point-to-point link delivering ~90 Mbps to a rural home for roughly \$274 in parts — NanoBeam M5 radios, OpenWRT routing, full link-budget and Fresnel-zone design. Featured on the Zyte engineering blog.
- Commercial and personal PtP/PtMP networks over unlicensed 2.4 and 5 GHz: Rocket Prism 5AC, LiteBeam, NanoBeam, NanoStation, UAP-AC-LR, with Mikrotik routing.

SKILLS

Cloud & platforms: Kubernetes (GKE, EKS, on-prem) · AWS · Google Cloud · Oracle Cloud · Bare metal · Mesos · Helm · Docker

Data & streaming: Hadoop / HBase · MySQL · Percona XtraDB · Apache Kafka · Confluent · Elasticsearch · ClickHouse · Ceph · RabbitMQ · Zookeeper

Automation & delivery: SaltStack · Ansible · Python · Shell scripting · Jenkins · CircleCI · CI/CD design · Infrastructure as code

Observability & reliability: Prometheus · Grafana · Zabbix · Elastic stack · Percona PMM · Incident response · Post-mortems · Capacity planning

Networking & wireless: Nginx · Nginx Plus · HAProxy · IPv6 · Ubiquiti AirMax (certified) · Mikrotik · OpenWRT · OpenVPN · IPsec · Asterisk VoIP

Leadership & operations: Team building & hiring · Coaching & career development · Budget ownership · Vendor negotiation · ISO 27001 · Security operations · Executive communication · Remote team leadership

CERTIFICATIONS, EDUCATION & LANGUAGES

Ubiquiti AirMax Certified Engineer — Ubiquiti Networks, 2012

Introduction to .NET platform technologies — Microsoft, 2011

Computer Science, Engineering programme — Universidad de la República, Uruguay, 2015 (400 of 450 credits)

Computer Analyst — Universidad de la República, Uruguay, 2010

First Certificate in English — University of Cambridge, 1998

Languages — Spanish (native) · English (bilingual proficiency) · Portuguese (basic)