Monitoring & Alerting Checklist

DevOps Starter Kit Overview

The DevOps Starter Kit is a practical introduction to the essential tools and workflows for any aspiring DevOps engineer. Whether you're building your first infrastructure or improving CI/CD pipelines, this kit offers a high-level map with actionable tools and concepts.

1. Core Concepts to Understand

- CI/CD: Continuous Integration / Continuous Deployment

- IaC (Infrastructure as Code)

- Observability: Logs, metrics, and traces

- Version Control

- Containers and Kubernetes

2. Essential Tools by Category

Code & Versioning: Git, GitHub, GitLab

IaC: Terraform, CloudFormation

Config Management: Ansible, Puppet

Containers: Docker, Compose, Kubernetes

CI/CD: GitHub Actions, Jenkins, GitLab CI

Monitoring: Prometheus, Grafana, Loki

Secrets: Vault, AWS Secrets Manager

3. Folder Structure (Project Skeleton)

project-root/
 terraform/
   main.tf
 ansible/
   playbook.yml
 docker/
 k8s/
 .github/workflows/

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monitoring/

README.md

4. Best Practices

- Version control everything

- Use remote Terraform backends

- Avoid hardcoded secrets

- Use `terraform fmt`, `validate`, and `plan`

- Monitor everything

- Prefer minimal Docker images

5. Learning Path

1. Git & GitHub

2. Linux + Bash

3. Docker & Compose

4. Terraform

5. Ansible

6. CI/CD tools

7. Kubernetes

8. Prometheus & Grafana

6. Bonus Tips

- Document learning in Notion or Obsidian

- Build labs on AWS Free Tier

- Join DevOps communities

- Follow in-depth real-world tutorials

Maintainer

Adesoji Adejoro

Site Reliability & Tech Support Lead

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https://www.adesoji.dev