

Carl Ardron

Independent Systems Engineer | Platform Integration | Reliable Operations

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Summary

I am an independent systems engineer available to organisations that need a reliable technical owner for platform integration, data workflow, or infrastructure modernisation work.

My current practice focuses on untangling complex system dependencies, hardening existing platforms without disruptive rewrites, and connecting fragmented data sources into reliable operational workflows, with observability built in from the start.

Skills

Platform and Infrastructure: Kubernetes, Docker, Docker Compose, Nginx, Linux hardening, TLS automation

Integration and Data: MongoDB, MySQL, Redis, API integration, Cross-system data normalisation, Automated reporting

Application Engineering: Node.js, JavaScript, TypeScript, PHP, React, Next.js

Observability and Operations: Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Health monitoring, Operational dashboards

Professional Experience

Founder / Independent Systems Engineer, Living Artifact Design

Jan 2017 to Present | Melbourne, VIC

- Delivered production-grade platform and integration systems for organisations with complex workflow and data challenges.
- Built observability-first infrastructure with Prometheus and Grafana so operations teams retain full system visibility.
- Migrated legacy PHP applications from Windows IIS to hardened Linux containers with no service disruption and improved security posture.
- Connected multi-system data sources into unified, reliable reporting and workflow platforms; reducing manual overhead and reconciliation errors.

Production and IT Development Manager, Hanabee Entertainment

Feb 2014 to Jan 2017 | Melbourne, VIC

- Delivered IT integration across inventory, accounting, and ordering systems, connecting Xero, Dear Inventory, and EDI data flows into unified operational outputs.
- Automated financial reconciliation and royalty reporting workflows, improving data reliability for business-critical decisions.

Selected Projects

Legacy PHP Platform Migration

Constraint-driven modernisation; zero-rewrite migration to hardened containers

- Migrated a long-running legacy application from Windows IIS to Linux Docker containers without any application code rewrite.
- Implemented automated TLS certificate lifecycle management and hardened Nginx controls, improving security posture.
- Preserved all existing integrations (MySQL, FileMaker) while significantly improving maintainability and deployment consistency.

Stack: Docker Compose, Nginx, MySQL, Certbot, PHP

Inventory, Sales Integration and Royalty Management

Unified data platform connecting fragmented operational systems

- Unified inventory, financial, and ordering data from multiple external systems into one consistent operational source.
- Built reliable royalty calculation and reporting logic that became the basis for financial review cycles.
- Reduced manual reconciliation effort significantly through automated data consolidation.

Stack: SilverStripe, MySQL, Dear Inventory, Xero, EDI integrations

Distributed Processing Pipeline

High-volume workflow platform with full operational observability

- Designed and delivered a Kubernetes-based distributed platform handling high-volume data processing with traceable state across millions of records.
- Observability-first design: Prometheus metrics, Grafana dashboards, and Loki log aggregation gave operators full runtime visibility.

Stack: Node.js, Kubernetes, MongoDB, Redis, Prometheus, Grafana, Loki

Education

BA (Hons), Visual Theories (Psychoanalysis), University of East London (1993 to 1996)