Kai Ase Siren

Senior platform engineer - governed AI systems, developer infrastructure, and production platforms.

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Senior platform engineer building policy-bound AI systems and developer infrastructure.

I'm **Kai Ase Siren** (preferred name), AKA **Lynn Conway** (legal name). I build the infrastructure around agents as independent open-source work: bounded execution and egress in umbra, and human-graded evaluation in housecast. Underneath that is more than ten years of platform engineering, developer experience, observability, and production operations, which is what keeps an agent layer standing in production rather than in a demo.

The throughline is developer infrastructure, and agents are its newest consumer. That has meant language-ecosystem tooling at Ruby Together, multi-cloud platforms at Textio, government infrastructure at Nava, and agent-facing observability and MCP surfaces at Kapwing. I run a two-site homelab and a public game server, which is where the platform, reliability, and observability work gets tested outside a job.

My career has been mostly individual-contributor work, with a chapter managing a small DevOps team at EnergyHub. I am strongest in ambiguous systems work where architecture, reliability, and developer experience have to meet.

Current Open Source

- umbra is a least privilege boundary that occludes agent CLIs and outbound requests behind declared policy: argv validation before exec, a refusal for every verb you did not grant, a rotating audit log, and a public exit-code taxonomy.
- housecast is the grading half of an agent evaluation: the consumer brings the cases and the runner, and a person grades each answer against its target, apart from the run that produced it.

Skills

Agent platforms MCP · agent orchestration · context composition · bounded execution · evaluation · model routing · agent observability · LLM APIs

Languages Python · Go · TypeScript / Node.js · Ruby · Java · PHP

Cloud and compute AWS · GCP · Azure · Kubernetes · serverless · EC2 · ECS · Batch · Docker · Linux

Infrastructure as code Terraform · CloudFormation · Ansible · Packer · Pulumi

Observability OpenTelemetry · Datadog · Prometheus · Grafana · New Relic · Sentry

Security and governance NIST 800-53 · SOC 2 · ISO 27001 · GDPR · least-privilege tooling

Experience

coilyco · **Platform Engineer, Agent Harnesses** | East Bay California, Remote · October 2026 - Present

Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, goose, opencode, local models, umbra, housecast

- Build and maintain agent harnesses for engineers across Claude Code, OpenAI Codex, goose, opencode, and local models
- Bound what those agents may run with umbra, and route their answers to a human grader with housecast

Kapwing · **Senior Software Engineer** | San Francisco · 2025 - 2026

Python, Node.js, Kubernetes, Terraform, GCP, New Relic, MCP, OpenAI Codex, Claude Code

- Build observability for machine consumers, telemetry shaped for agents rather than dashboards
- Ship an agent-facing MCP surface for a production media pipeline
- Design agentic debugging workflows against production telemetry
- Improve Dockerized Python startup performance by roughly 2x

Nava · **Principal Infrastructure Engineer** | **Remote · 2023 - 2025**

Python, Java, Terraform, AWS, NIST 800-53, New Relic

- Deployed a government website for the US Department of Health and Human Services
- Improved backend applications written in Python and Java
- Remediated security vulnerabilities to maintain NIST 800-53 compliance
- Deployed Metabase for analytics and reporting

Textio · **Staff Infrastructure Engineer** | **Remote · 2022 - 2023**

Python, Go, TypeScript, Datadog, Airflow, AWS, Azure, Azure OpenAI, SOC 2

- Deployed Airflow with a SQLMesh orchestration layer for data-science workflows
- Deployed Azure OpenAI through a multi-cloud BGP VPN to AWS
- Migrated monitoring to a customized Datadog and Fluent Bit system
- Built Python data pipelines for customer reporting systems

EnergyHub · **DevOps Engineering Manager** | **Brooklyn, NY · 2021 - 2022**

Engineering manager and technical lead for a team of 2 to 4

- Hired a DevOps team and shaped a role distinct from product engineering
- Managed security policy and practice for daily work and significant incidents

EnergyHub · **Senior DevOps Engineer** | **Brooklyn, NY · 2021**

Python, Java, Ansible, Terraform, Datadog, MongoDB, AWS, SOC 2

- Stabilized Ansible deployment tooling and brought it to current standards
- Upgraded internal systems to production-grade managed services
- Performed SOC 2 control remediations and built supporting tooling

Bluelink · **Senior Backend Engineer** | **Seattle, WA · 2020 - 2021**

Python, Java, GCP, Kubernetes

- Built Java and Python services on Kubernetes and GCP for partner API data flows
- Shipped data-flow products for Democratic candidates and progressives

Textio · **Senior Infrastructure Engineer** | **Seattle, WA · 2018 - 2020**

Python, Go, Node.js, GitHub, CircleCI, Docker, AWS ECS, GDPR, ISO 27001

- Built automation across third-party services to improve engineering velocity
- Designed and socialized practices for daily developer tooling
- Built stable developer tools customized to internal use cases

Callisto · **Senior Software Engineer** | **San Francisco, CA · 2016 - 2018**

Python, Node.js, Django, Heroku, Travis CI

- Built and upgraded security application logic for the campus product
- Built client-side encryption systems in Python and Node.js
- Paired with cryptographers to prove out novel cryptographic methods

Ruby Together · Open Source Software Engineer | 2016 *Ruby, RubyGems, Bundler, GitHub*

Harlot Media · Software Engineer | 2015 - 2016 *JavaScript, PHP, Bash, DigitalOcean*

Quirell · Software Engineer | 2014 - 2015 *Python, Flask, Neo4j, Heroku*

NASA · Engineering Student Ambassador | 2012 - 2013 *Climate science education*

Community & Open Source Leadership

Write/Speak/Code · **Seattle Chapter Organizer** | **2019 - 2020**

Nonprofit community supporting technologists from marginalized genders

urfave/cli · **Maintainer** | **2020 - 2021**

Go CLI framework with broad downstream adoption