

Systems In Motion Statement of Purpose v0

Who are we?

We are a select few experienced engineers and “systems operators”¹ dedicated to improving our skills at architecting, delivering, and supporting complex production systems, along with the organizations that come with them.

The goal of our events is to facilitate small group discussions, acting as a community of practice for seasoned engineers in New York. In some sense, we aim to be a professional support group that attendees can rely on for technical and organizational opinions.

We meet on a regular basis to hear **brief** remarks from speakers or descriptions of problems our members face. The focus of our meetings is *not* the remarks themselves but the discussions we hold afterwards, where we can discuss the things that most meetups fail to cover: implementation details for large systems, organizational politics in growing startups, rollout plans, financial realities, etc.

We are:

- Interested in operations, reliability, user research, “Continuous Delivery”, development process, culture, org structure, and observability.
- **Interested in discussion over dictation**
 - Our goal is to hear from seasoned practitioners about battle-tested solutions to our shared problems. In doing so, we hope to foster a space for discussing those less-covered issues that may arise in our work.
 - We are **not** necessarily here to learn about the newest novel framework for managing infrastructure or writing code.
- **Interested in business, but not business people**
 - We are curious about the business impact **of** our practices, and the impact of business **on** our practices
 - We are not necessarily interested in the mechanics of GTM, company building, recruiting, or entrepreneurship.
- **Professionals**
 - No flame wars, no “well actually”, no unsolicited advice in a vacuum.

¹ “SysAdmin”, “DevOps”, “SRE”, “person bouncing Kubernetes pods”, call yourself what you’d like!

- **Generalists**
 - Delivering software and supporting it requires that we know a little bit about a lot, and our curiosity is commensurately broad.
 - This is *not* a group **solely** for experts on SRE/DevOps, Observability, GoLang, frontend, or backend, and we will speak to each other respectfully, with the understanding that we may not all know the same things.
- **Specialists**
 - There are subjects we care more about, like designing scalable CI, than others, like building small apps.

We are not:

- **Beginners**
 - While we seek to encourage folks at every phase of their career, our gatherings expect a baseline breadth and depth of knowledge that is probably onerous for someone just starting their software career. We acknowledge experienced professionals' need for private spaces.
- Too concerned with any one technology.
- Interested in watching someone build a demo app with the framework du jour
- Interested in simple, un-nuanced positions. Every talk should lead to a lively (but respectful) discussion.
- Interested in tools in a vacuum. None of us are going to rebuild our production systems around a fledgling technology because of DX, so we need context.
- Customers. Any presentation even approaching a “pitch” should be couched in general principals around why a technology or approach is desirable.