

Richard Neave

Cloud Platform Engineering Lead

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Profile

A Cloud Platform Engineering Lead with experience in the architecture and delivery of Cloud-based solutions, using a wide range of DevOps tools. Always looking to increase technical knowledge and work on projects with exposure to new and innovative IT solutions. Has worked extensively in client-facing positions providing technical support, training, expertise and leadership.

Experience

October 2023 - Present **Cloud Platform Engineering Lead (Associate Director)**, *Cognizant*, London, (Retail Banking Client).
Transitioned into a new role after completion of Contino's consolidation into Cognizant consulting. Continue to perform the role of Engineering Lead with a large retail banking client. Tasked with providing leadership and technical support across multiple fast-paced projects utilising new Azure technologies, such as Azure AI and Azure Arc.

April 2022 - **Senior Technical Principal**, *Contino*, London, (Retail Banking Client).
October 2023 **Engineering Lead**

Cloud and automation-focused engineering lead across multiple work-streams for a UK-based retail banking client. Provide support to engineering teams on client expectations, processes and technical requirements. Act as the final escalation point for all engineering decisions across account work-streams. Coordinate client and supplier (Microsoft) teams on new engineering proposals as well as solving complex engineering problems.

Client Engagement

Present technical overviews to senior stakeholders and introductory sessions to interested parties. Present and defend proposed designs at client architecture governance forums.

Security & Compliance

Ensure that client compliance and regulatory controls are met from an engineering perspective, and then appropriately evidenced to clients' satisfaction. Identify and document technology/process risks, then engage with various client security teams to agree mitigations.

Additional Responsibilities

Additional responsibilities include supporting engineers with career progression (and training), as well as performing technical interviews with potential new hires.

September 2020 - **Principal Consultant**, *Contino*, London, (Retail Banking Client).

April 2022 **Cloud Datacenter - Compute**

Design and build a compute pattern utilising Azure Virtual Machines, supported with Azure Backup, Azure Automation, Azure Update Management, and Azure Policy to enforce the client's governance requirements. A heavy focus on security has required a detailed investigation into encryption options both at rest and in-transit.

Cloud Datacenter - Storage

Design and build the initial cloud datacenter landing zone based on a hub and spoke model. Designed and built a storage pattern utilising Azure File Storage, Azure Blob Storage and Azure Data Factory. This feature was then evidenced with LLDs, ensuring it met the client's governance controls.

Data Storage Assessment

Assess the client's existing on-premise storage solution, perform an initial investigation of the type of data hosted, and then propose a suitable Azure-hosted alternative. This report also took into account the ongoing classification of the data, along with an initial migration strategy.

- October 2019 - **Senior Consultant**, *Contino*, London, (Retail Banking Client).
- September 2020 **Knowledge Transfer**
Designed, documented and delivered a training course to the client SRE team on platform maintenance and troubleshooting.
- Cloud Control Framework**
Reviewed each of the controls in the clients cloud control framework, and then agreed on the evidence required for each of the controls. Evidence was then generated to show that the controls were met for the Cloud Native platform.
- Cloud Native Platform**
Supported the engineering of a Cloud-Native platform hosted in Azure cloud. This platform provided the client a platform to develop Cloud Native applications hosted in Azure Kubernetes Clusters. A key focus on security required the implementation of Open Policy Agent, AquaSec and Istio Service Mesh.
- November 2018 - **Automation Team Manager, Europe**, *IPsoft*, London, (Retail Banking Client).
October 2019 Manager of the Automation team in Europe, responsible for the development & delivery of automations on IPcenter: an IT service management platform; as well as 1Desk: the next generation autonomic tool.
- November 2016 - **Automation Team Lead, United Kingdom**, *IPsoft*, London, (Retail Banking Client).
November 2018 Leading the automation team in the UK primarily working with our new client (a leading UK bank) to configure the IPcenter AaaS Instance to their needs.
- June 2016 - **Senior Automation Engineer**, *IPsoft*, London, (Media Agency Client).
November 2016 Client facing role writing requirements documents, then developing high impact automations.
- May 2015 - **Automation Engineer**, *IPsoft*, London, (Government Client).
June 2016 An engineer writing incident remediation automations for a government client.
- May 2013 - **DevOps Engineer**, *Star Financial Systems*, London, (Internal).
May 2015 Responsible for automation and DevOps engineering across platform infrastructure.
- August 2012 - **Senior 2nd Line Support Engineer**, *GroupM*, London, (Internal).
May 2013 Project work such as large scale OS provisioning/upgrades and software deployment/remote configuration.
- August 2009 - **2nd Line Support Engineer**, *GroupM*, London, (Internal).
August 2012 Hardware, OS and application support for staff across GroupM London offices.
- May 2009 - **Rifleman**, *British Army (Reserves)*, *The Rifles Regiment*, London.
July 2013 Infantry training improving team building and organizational skills through monthly weekend and annual fortnight training courses.

Computer skills

Cloud	Azure, AWS	Kubernetes	Istio, OPA, AquaSec, Helm, Cert-Manager
CI/CD	Jenkins, Teamcity, Octopus Deploy, GitLab, Azure DevOps	Infrastructure	Windows, macOS, Linux (Ubuntu, Redhat)
Interpreted languages	Python, PowerShell, JavaScript (Node.js, Mozilla Rhino), Shell (sh, zsh, bash)	Compiled languages	Golang
Databases	MySQL, MSSQL	Data structure	JSON, XML, YAML, HTML
Virtualization	Docker, Vagrant, Virtualbox, VMWare vSphere	Documentation	Sphinx, reStructuredText, Markdown, LaTeX
Reporting/Analysis	Jupyter, Elastic Search, Kibana	Other	RegEx, Vim, Tmux

Education

- September 2005 - **Northumbria University**.
July 2008 Bsc (Hons):
 - Product Design Technology: *Second*
- September 2000 - **Harrow School**.
July 2005 A-Level:
 - Information Communication Technology: *A*
 - Design Technology: *B*
 - Business Studies: *B*
AS-Level:
 - Photography: *A*
GCSE:
 - Maths, Geography, Design Technology, History: *A*
 - French, English Language & Literature, Chemistry, Physics, Religious Studies: *B*