

Mbongeni Allan Ngwenya – Cloud Engineer

I am a cloud professional with experience working across Microsoft Azure and AWS. My expertise in cloud and DevOps includes designing or implementing enterprise scale IT infrastructure, defining Infrastructure as code best practices and migrating projects to the cloud. I am currently employed by Sungard Availability Services as an Azure DevOps Engineer, with prior experience as an Azure DevOps Engineer at Doctor Care Anywhere, Public Cloud Developer at Barclays and a Public Cloud SRE at Lloyds Banking Group. Throughout my past job roles, I have gained invaluable experience and discovered my passion for the world of Cloud Engineering. I am currently undertaking a JavaScript Bootcamp at the University of Manchester in my spare time to further enhance my current skillset. I have a strong desire to be my personal best in every aspect of life and believe that this will give me the motivation and tenacity to become a successful engineer.

During full time education I studied Biology, Psychology and ICT at A-Level. Taking two science subjects has heightened my analytical skills, thus allowing me to efficiently draw conclusions from evidence obtained during investigations. Psychology is a discipline that has taught me about the human mind in relation to the reasoning behind behaviour. I interrogated case studies regularly and have acquired the technique to compose succinct arguments. My talent for processing information logically is exercised extensively in ICT, for example when I am creating a database. The implementation and documentation of transcripts in ICT has sharpened my eye for detail. Due to the large technological advancements being made in the corporate world; it is integral that intellectual property rights are respected in a lawful way.

Technical Employment History

Sungard Availability Services– Azure DevOps Engineer (January 2022 -)

I am currently employed as an Azure DevOps Engineer. On a day-to-day basis I deploy terraform code to Azure for customers infrastructure needs, which range from virtual machines to subnets and NSG's. Since joining the team I have been involved in maintaining existing customers infrastructure by troubleshooting any downtime. The main project I have delivered in my time at Sungard is the acquisition of Azure DevOps, the setup, documentation of best practices for deploying infrastructure to Azure and incident management.

Doctor Care Anywhere – Azure DevOps Engineer (July 2021 – January 2022)

Since joining the DevOps team I was a vocal point in setting working standards such as how our development lifecycle should operate in the new world. I brought my knowledge of how to operate in the best way with multi-repo, mono-repo strategies and how the pipelines should implement configurations. Working with Jenkins and BitBucket in previous roles has helped me conceptualise how pipelines in ADO should be configured using best practice. An example of one of the main projects planned then implemented successfully was how to leverage terraform for the best alerting/monitoring solutions on Azure. Due to the current structure of the growing team, I carried out a lot of proof-of-concept work with new technology such as GitOps tools like flux/ArgoCD and Terraform CAF alongside our cloud architect or developer technical lead. Occasionally I was required to help Dev teams meet their targets and goals by having meetings to discuss what they need infrastructure wise and how to deploy it to Azure. Upon joining the company, I made a conscious decision to push myself to be more of a senior. The work I produced not only has a working solution in code that can be used, but also a lot of documentation or overview sessions on how I arrived to the solution and how to utilise it.

Barclays – Public Cloud Deployment Developer, AWS and Azure (August 2020 -July 2021)

At Barclays I was working as Public Cloud Developer on AWS and Azure. My role on a day-to-day basis involved working with Infrastructure as Code tools such as Terraform, CloudFormation, Chef and Jenkins to provision then configure the infrastructure in our AWS and Azure cloud platforms. I worked end to end taking infrastructure as code proof of concepts and turning them into best practice examples for teams within the Bank to use. One of the main use cases I was responsible for putting together was the onboarding of VDI to Azure. I always want to stretch myself through trying new tasks to help make me a more all rounded engineer. Although my main focus was IaC I completed automation tasks, whether it be in Python or PowerShell. As a Barclays employee I was regularly reviewed for my performance and I take pride in knowing that I was given ratings of 'Good' for all of the core values (Respect, Integrity, Service, Stewardship, Excellence). Due to my previous experience working in a corporate company, I have learned how to deal with extreme deadlines and how to be successful under pressure while also enjoying the challenges at hand. My teamwork skills are extensively exercised due to the agile way of working I was in. I worked alongside different types of people from SME's to scrum masters, which shows that I am comfortable and enjoy communicating with different types of people. My experience prior to joining Lloyds Banking Group/Barclays was heavily customer service orientated, which provided me with an insight into how to communicate with customers and how to deliver a product that meets all of their needs. I take pride in my work ethic because I appreciate the journey of being able to move through the stages required to go from a beginner to an expert.

Lloyds Banking Group - Public Cloud SRE, Azure (July 2019 -August 2020)

I have also worked as a Public Cloud Site Reliability Engineer on Microsoft Azure. My interest in cloud computing and the implications of network security at the virtualisation level is something that drew me towards the role. Working in a big team with constant workflow means that on a regular basis I am learning new concepts and learning how to carry out a range of different tasks. As a young man in the early years of his IT career, I see the importance in developing my technical skills and stretching myself at every opportunity. My technical ability has improved at Lloyds Public Cloud, due to my constant involvement in the provisioning different types of Azure infrastructure (Virtual machines, Storage accounts and key vaults) with a range of industry recognised tools for compliance and automation. On a day-to-day basis I also built CI/CD Jenkins pipelines, configured cookbooks in Chef, created/implemented network security group rules, completed whitelist requests and work closely with industry recognised monitoring tools for cloud platforms such as Dynatrace. My management skills in a cloud engineering context are also strong, which is something I demonstrate at Lloyds Banking Group by handling our Vulnerabilities, SOC interactions on our Azure infrastructure. Working in infrastructure as code within a large organisation has taught me the true meaning of due-diligence. I demonstrate my awareness of internal standards by comfortably following processes, getting approvals for white-glove/high risk tasks and pushing back when required to for the safety of the environment we take care of. I have a real passion for helping people and troubleshooting complex issues, which is why I have grown so fond of Dev Ops. My interpersonal skills shine through when I am trying to understand an individual or teams' problems, as I believe this allows me to better react and provide the best solution for all parties.

Lloyds Banking Group - Junior Java Developer, Telephony Systems (September 2018 – July 2019)

Previously I worked as a Java software engineer on an apprenticeship programme which is delivered by Manchester Metropolitan University. Working at my previous lab has taught me how to be resilient in tough situations, calm in tense scenarios and how to work and learn simultaneously. My technical skills have been sharpened during my time at this Lloyds lab as on a day-to-day basis I was shadowing senior Java programmers and also developing/ testing code. My knowledge of the software development life cycle and agile development has grown at my time working as Junior Java developer. As an apprentice at Lloyds, it was important to have an in-depth overview of what you're working towards as a developer, which is why I was also involved in IT architecture plans. Working as an architect requires a great eye for detail and the ability to holistically look at information and provide a well-informed opinion. One of Lloyd's main working practises involves completing work as a team and being part of the company has helped my team work skills and leadership qualities.

Additional Skills

Cloud	Azure, AWS, PaaS, IaaS, SaaS, Heroku, Security Groups, IAM, S3, EC2, Lambda, CloudFormation, Code build, pipeline, CLI, CloudTrail, Azure Resource Manager, ARM templates, AKS, Application Gateways, Docker, Kubernetes, AKS, GitOps, ArgoCD, Azure DevOps, NSG Rules, Windows Server, AAD, ADDS, Cloudcheckr, CSOC Management, Patch Management
Config Management	Chef
CI/CD	Jenkins, Azure DevOps, TeamCity
Hashicorp Suite	Terraform, Packer, Vault
Tools and Languages	Python, Java, Bash/Shell, PowerShell, HTML, JavaScript, Node JS,JSON, YAML, GitHub, Gitlab, Azure DevOps, Visual Studio Code, Eclipse, GIT, Postman, BitBucket,
Website Development	I am currently on a Full Stack JavaScript Bootcamp with University of Manchester to further improve my coding skills so that I can automate more toil in a work environment and build apps end to end in my own time. The bootcamp will teach me how to use HTML5, CSS3, CSS Flex, JavaScript, Node.js, React.js, Express.js, API management, MySQL/NoSQL, MongoDB, databases and AWS / Azure.

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