Spike Lindsey

github - email

Experience

Monzo

Monzo is a digital, mobile-only bank based in the UK.

Platform Engineer - February 2018 - November 2018

- responsible for designing, building, and operating the bank's underlying platform (Kubernetes, Cassandra, Prometheus, Kafka, Linkerd/Namerd, services consumed from AWS, physical data centres, and networking)
- led an update of the on-call process, enabling the expansion of the on-call team from 5 to 15 engineers through the creation of runbooks, clear documentation, well-defined procedures, and onboarding materials, informed by being an active member of the on-call rotation
- led work around Cassandra: updating, scaling and automating to accomodate growth from 500k to 1.3 million users (also 50 to 150 engineers), as well as hiring and onboarding engineers with Cassandra expertise

Equal Experts

Equal Experts is a network of experienced software consultants, specialising in agile and continuous delivery.

Tech Lead - March 2017 - February 2018

- served as tech lead for a local team of 5 and two offshore teams, migrating 3 years of customer transaction data into cloud-based storage, integrating a live point-of-sale feed and exposing the resulting data as a performant and easily queryable API
- designed and implemented seamless migration and zero-downtime cutover processes
- onboarded new team members, aligning them with existing development and operability practices

Developer - October 2016 - March 2017

- developed and supported microservices from the ground up (Java 8 w/Spring Boot) for a large European retail client, delivering multiple APIs integrated against (and eventually replacing) monolithic legacy systems
- created pipelines and environments as code (Jenkins, Terraform, Ansible, deployed on AWS - now migrated to Kubernetes)
- responsible for operability and 24/7 on-call support (we build it, we run it!), creating and maintaining a telemetry stack (ELK, Graphite/Grafana, InfluxDB, Sensu)
- coached the client's developers, spreading continuous delivery, operability, TDD, and pair

programming practices more widely through the organisation

Makers Academy

Makers Academy is a web development bootcamp, training new junior developers in 12 weeks and finding & placing them in jobs across Europe.

Developer - November 2014 - October 2016

- built and maintained internal applications assisting with onboarding, student tracking and billing/financial tracking (Ruby/JavaScript)
- introduced and maintained development standards and practices: basic CI/CD, company styleguide, engineering charter, regular retrospectives, structured code review and QA checklists

In addition to working as a developer, I also coached students taking the Makers Academy course:

- closely mentored students into their first junior development jobs, providing guidance on best practices, processes and programming concepts
- worked with hiring partners to design and deliver new recruitment processes, including creating custom technical assessments, conducting initial stage screenings and code reviews
- created and delivered lectures, workshops and curriculum content

Profile

I am a former sound engineer turned software engineer, with 4 years of experience split between fast-moving startups and large enterprise consultancy. I constantly adapt my role to deliver value where it is most needed, moving between development, operability and technical analysis. My recent roles have focussed more on platform/infrastructure, with a specific interest in building and managing effective, sustainable on-call rotations. I also have first-hand experience of two companies transitioning to self-management, requiring involvement in many aspects of business beyond software (hiring, budgeting, strategy, facilitation).

I spend a lot of my free time learning from or trying to give back to the software community, as well as exploring other related communities (agile, Lean, organisational transformation, teal/self-management). I'm a massive advocate for increasing diversity, both in tech and everywhere else. I also still build recording studios & record music for fun, play drums in a metal band, and spend the rest of my time seeking out or making tasty food.

Community

- coach and co-organiser for codebar, presenting at and facilitating events such as uncodebar
- co-organiser for the Makers Academy Alumni community
- co-organised London's first ever PLIBMTTBHGATY
- co-organiser for Global Day of Code Retreat
- facilitator and creator of software for startup workshops for NEF

Other experience

Sound Engineer - 2008 - 2014

- recorded everything from jazz to chart-topping pop in London, New York and Dublin
- delivered major label (Roc Nation, UMG, Sony BMG) album projects, organising 20+ songwriters, producers and artists

Education

Recording Arts, BA (Hons) - 2:1
2006 - 2008
SAE Institute, London