

Erik Thorsell

DevOps Transformation Leader | Team Lead | Platform Developer



Overview

Erik is a solution-oriented DevOps enthusiast, who believes the best way to generate value in a software company is by tearing down walls and helping developers deliver new functionality faster. Erik has worked as Team Lead and Line Manager, being responsible for up to four XFTs spread out over the world, and has also been responsible for developing and maintaining organisation wide CI/CD systems. By leveraging his technical expertise and leadership experience, Erik can assist both with building developer platforms, architectural discussions as well as overarching process changes in your organisation.

Having worked in different industries, including: automotive, telecom, embedded and customs, Erik has experience with a wide range of technologies. He has implemented cloud-based workflows, utilising gitops to deploy Kubernetes applications to both managed and self-hosted clusters; but also with on-premise, air-gapped deployments, requiring self-contained deliverables.

Erik has a proficiency for breaking down complex tasks into manageable chunks. He excels in assignments with unclear and changing requirements, and embraces the agile way of working with iterative improvements. He adapts quickly to new tools and environments and always looks for new ways to shorten the feedback loop.



Experience

Jan '25–present



Kubernetes Expert and Platform Engineer, Zenseact, Gothenburg

Zenseact develops AI-powered software for autonomous driving and advanced driver assistance systems. Their solution combines in-car software and cloud services to offer rigorous protection on the road.

ROLE

Combining his technical expertise and leadership experience, Erik is currently working in Zenseact's dedicated Kubernetes team, responsible for ensuring everyone at Zenseact has a place to develop, test and deploy their services.

IMPACT

Erik is primarily focusing on migrating Zenseact's Kubernetes offering from OpenShift to a more flexible and cost-effective Talos Linux based architecture. Together with the team, Erik is building a *Kubernetes as a Service*-service where developers can order a fully-fledged Kubernetes cluster, set up with LDAP-authentication, load balancing, cluster storage and monitoring, and have it automatically deployed in a couple of minutes.

TECHNOLOGIES

Kubernetes, Talos Linux, OpenShift, kube-vip, MetalLB, Dex, Ceph, Ansible, RedHat, Bash

Nov '24–Dec '24



IT, tools and processes assessment, Kollmorgen, a Regal Rexnord brand, Mölndal

Kollmorgen, a Regal Rexnord brand, is a technology leader in navigation and fleet control of automated guided vehicles (AGVs) and autonomous mobile robots (AMRs).

ROLE

In this short-term assignment, Erik worked together with an architect to help Kollmorgen R&D assess their current IT environment and Way of Working.

IMPACT

Erik and his partner delivered a presentation for Kollmorgen's leadership team, which sparked a transformation journey within the company. They proposed cost efficient improvements, with respect to IT, processes and tools used within the company; while considering the overall capabilities and throughput of the R&D department.

Jan '24–Feb '25



The DevOps Team, Husqvarna Construction Products, Electronics & SW, Jonsered

Husqvarna Construction manufactures big tools to fulfil your cutting, drilling, sawing and vibrating needs. All of these tools have computers in them, running mission critical embedded software, to help the end user better utilise their equipment.

ROLE

As the sole member of the DevOps Team, Erik was responsible for everything concerning building and shipping the software that is developed at the Electronics & SW department. This included deploying and maintaining cloud and on-premise infrastructure, writing pipelines and helping developers and testers improve their way of working.

IMPACT

Erik's work was necessary to ensure daily operations. During the assignment Erik focused on simplifying old, organically grown, processes and emphasised the usage of monitoring across the organisation. He updated old infrastructure and software to either run on their most up-to-date versions or changed the tooling altogether; always with the purpose to increase the speed of the software lifecycle.

TECHNOLOGIES

Jenkins, Gerrit, AWS, Azure, Azure DevOps, Snyk, SCANOSS, Dependency Track, Python, Bash, Powershell

Dec '22–Dec '23



DevOps Lead and Platform Developer, Toyota Material Handling Logistics Solutions, Gothenburg

TMHLS develops T-ONE, the software which makes Toyota's forklifts autonomous. T-ONE is a containerised .NET application with an in-house developed workflow engine capable of integrating with warehouse management systems, communicating using OPC UA and HMI.

ROLE

Erik worked in a three-person team, responsible for "developer support". Together with the team, he maintained and improved the developer platform, which spanned both cloud and on-prem resources. He was also responsible for migrating T-ONE from a docker compose deployment to Kubernetes, as well as developing and implementing a new release process, focusing on trunk-based development and automated release candidates.

IMPACT

By migrating T-ONE to Kubernetes, Erik was a key enabler for TMHLS acquiring a large contract. He has also been instrumental to several cost savings w.r.t. cloud usage, bringing static workloads on-premise and utilising cloud resources more efficiently.

TECHNOLOGIES

Azure, Azure DevOps, Docker, Kubernetes, XCP-ng, Ansible, Terraform, pfSense, OpenVPN, Boundary, Ubuntu, RedHat Enterprise Linux, SLES, Windows Server, Python, Bash, Powershell, .NET

Nov '21–Dec '22



DevOps Transformation Leader, Maersk Customs Services, Gothenburg

Maersk (formerly KGH) Customs Services provides customs clearance, booking and global trade consulting services all over the world. They develop and host several SaaS solutions with round-the-clock availability in order to ensure their customers can move their goods to its destination.

ROLE

When KGH was acquired by Maersk, Erik was asked to help them evolve their software suite to a cloud native offering. This included a technical transformation, as well as a change to KGH's way-of-working, where Erik was able to combine his leadership and Kubernetes experience to advice the CTO and architects in their work. After agreeing on a way forward, Erik spent most of his time pair-programming together with the developers; making sure there would be no knowledge gap once the assignment was over. In addition to the transformative work, Erik supported the existing Operations Department with their everyday work, handling deployments, builds of older systems, monitoring, logging, and related tasks.

IMPACT

By the end of the assignment, Erik had led several successful service migrations and helped formulate the plan for migrating KGH's larger and more complex products.

TECHNOLOGIES

Azure, Azure DevOps, Octopus, Kubernetes, IIS, .NET, HA-Proxy

May '19–Nov '21



Line Manager, Team Facilitator, Software Engineer, Ericsson (Packet Core), Gothenburg

The Packet Core department at Ericsson is responsible for the company's 5G portfolio and the SWDP is crucial to ensuring zero downtime upgrades of all components in the 5G stack.

Jun '21–Nov '21 **Line Manager (Acting)**

As acting Line Manager, Erik had the opportunity to work with recruitment, change management, and coaching team members in their careers. He managed around 20 people from different countries and answered to the Packet Core department manager.

IMPACT

Erik successfully helped the XFTs and PO increase their throughput by providing for the teams' needs. With his support, the teams delivered on their commitments and worked in close collaboration with their stakeholders.

Jul '20–Jun '21 **Team Facilitator for DevOps Teams**

As Team Facilitator, Erik was responsible for the performance of four XFTs. He coached the teams in agile principles and helped them perform at their highest level. Being one of the most senior people in the project (see Software Engineer pos. below), Erik was still involved in architectural/design decisions for the product.

IMPACT

Erik's goal was to imbue the DevOps mindset in the project and the developers he worked with. He helped the teams find new ways of working which helped them deliver higher quality software at an increasing pace.

May '19–Jul '20 **Software & CI/CD Engineer**

Erik was one of the first team members to join the Packet Core's Continuous Delivery & Deployment project. The product (SWDP) is a Python application which automates the upgrade procedure of Packet Cores' network functions, ensuring critical telecom infrastructure receive up-to-date software with zero downtime.

IMPACT

Was involved in product design, development as well as testing and developing the build/deployment pipeline for the product. He helped migrate the team from Gerrit to GitLab and utilised Docker Swarm to ensure a readily available build environment.

TECHNOLOGIES

Kubernetes, Python, Jenkins, GitLab, Gerrit, Spinnaker, Confluence, Jira

Jun '18–May '19



Software & CI/CD Developer, Volvo Autonomous Solutions, Gothenburg

Volvo Autonomous Solutions strive to transform the movement of goods through efficient, sustainable and safe autonomous solutions. They deliver a "control tower" for overseeing their autonomous vehicles.

ROLE

During his assignment, Erik worked as a Java developer, scrum master and CI/CD developer. He was part of a team which was tasked with delivering a containerised fleet management system, capable of planning routes and communicating with the autonomous vehicles. Erik also developed and was responsible for the Continuous Integration (CI) tool chain for the Java based products in the project.

IMPACT

The CI/CD platform that Erik developed helped the teams find integration pain points significantly faster than what they had found before.

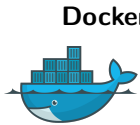
TECHNOLOGIES

Jenkins, Java SpringBoot, AMQ, BitBucket, SonarQube, Maven, Confluence, Jira, Mattermost

Tools



Azure Erik has worked with several clients who relied heavily on Azure. He has managed IPsec tunnels, maintained Azure DevOps build pools with scale-sets, worked with IAM and RBAC, AKS, databases and VMs; mostly using Terraform but also Microsoft's own tools.



Docker A central concept within DevOps is self-governance. When teams are able to build and deliver artifacts over which they have full control, they can take full responsibility for their stuff. Erik is a big fan of these ideas and have used Docker for many years to achieve this.



Terraform In the same way that it's crucial to have build and deployment pipelines to swiftly test and deploy code, Infrastructure as Code is key to enable fast and reliable deployments of *environments*. Erik's IaC tool of choice is Terraform.



Python Erik has used Python to solve automation problems for many years. Due to its adoption in the industry and portability, it is an excellent tool for most tasks which require a solution which is poorly handled by a one-liner.



Jenkins With so many companies utilising services like Azure DevOps, GitHub or GitLab, the art of rolling your own CI/CD is starting to get lost. Erik has up-to-date experience deploying and maintaining Jenkins instances for organisations of different sizes, finding automated ways of ensuring reliable and up-to-date deployments.



AWS When it comes to AWS, Erik has experience using CDK to deploy applications and the infrastructure necessary to run said apps. During his time at Husqvarna he was responsible for the infrastructure lifecycle management for a handful of applications running in AWS.



Kubernetes Kubernetes gives organisations the possibility to build scalable – but complex – applications. Erik has experience deploying and maintaining Kubernetes on-premise and in the cloud, using different methods; most recently using OpenShift and OpenShift and Talos Linux.



Ansible TMHLS use Ansible wherever possible; both in combination with Packer for ensuring consistent VM images, but also for on-prem infrastructure deployments. Erik has written Ansible roles for Ubuntu, RHEL, SLES and Windows Server.



Bash Sometimes, Python is not the best choice. Having used both Linux and BSD for many years (and still waiting for *The year of Linux on the desktop*), Erik uses Bash (or any of the common shells) on a daily basis.



Version Control Versioning is imperative to software development and Erik has multiple years of experience working with different tools for versioning both source code and binaries (e.g. GitHub, GitLab, BitBucket, Azure DevOps and Gerrit) but he also has experience developing strategies for *how* to version software for different usecases.

DevOps In order to win the marketplace, your company must deliver higher quality software – faster. Making “the speed at which you deliver your high quality product” your highest priority, will force you to scrutinize all parts of your organization. Erik has both the technical and managerial background necessary to help your organization forward; and believes we do so by drawing from the DevOps principles.

Education



Aug '13–Jun '18 **BSc, MSc, MScEng, Computer Science**, Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg
Erik holds a BSc and an MScEng in Computer Science and Engineering. He also has an MSc in *Computer Science, Algorithms, Languages and Logic* and concentrated his studies to machine learning, artificial intelligence and optimisation.



Aug '11–Jun '12 **Team Training School West (TTS)**, Dalkarlså Community College, Dalkarlså
A theological education with emphasis on leadership. Not only did the education cast light upon the complexity that comes with organizing a large community, Erik also got a better understanding of the importance of structuring his everyday work.

Key interests DevOps | Improvement of Daily Work | Automation | FOSS/Open Source | Transparency
Continuous Integration and Deployment | Agile | Continual Learning | 🏊 🚴 🏃