Erik Thorsell

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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 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. In his most recent assignments, Erik has worked a lot with Azure and Azure DevOps, utilising Terraform and Ansible for infrastructure deployments and configuration.

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

Dec '22–Dec '23

TOYOTA

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

MAERSK

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 both 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.

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

Jun '18–May '19 **Software 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, BitBucket, Confluence, Jira, Mattermost

Sep '17–Dec '17 **Machine Learning Engineer**, Machine Intelligence Sweden, Gothenburg.

MIS is founded by two Chalmers alumni with the goal to bridge the gap between AI/ML Research and the industry.

ROLE
Erik worked with the product *Science Router*, a search engine for connecting industry and research. He was involved in all steps of the product development but focused primarily on data aggregation and parsing all articles into a unified format, to be stored and used for algorithm training.

IMPACT
Wrote Python scrapers for aggregating research articles from the major scientific publications and format all of the data into a coherent format, suitable for training machine learning models.

TECHNOLOGIES
AWS, Python

Tools

Azure 
Erik has handled a plethora of different kinds of deployments for various customers: Scale sets for build agents and variable workloads, standalone VM deployments with custom images, managed Kubernetes services, and much more.

Version Control 
Erik *loves* when all i's are dotted and all t's are crossed and therefore he has a thing for version control. He has experience working with Microsoft's collaboration tools (Azure DevOps and GitHub), Atlassian's suite (Jira, Confluence, Bitbucket) as well as GitLab and gerrit.

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.

Boundary 
Boundary is an excellent tool for managing VPN-like access for organizations. Erik has worked with both Boundary OSS and HCP Boundary and has configured both variants from scratch, in an Azure + on-premise environment.

Packer 
When deploying virtual machines on a regular basis, Packer is an excellent tool to reduce deployment times and increase reproducibility. Erik has experience building images for various Linux distributions and Windows server versions, using Ansible and Azure as the backend.

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.

Docker 
Used both professionally and for personal projects. TMHLS' product is composed of dozens of containers and KGH targeted Kubernetes with Docker images. At Ericsson, Erik set up GitLab with Docker runners and he configured the CI/CD pipeline at VA with Docker and Docker Swarm.

Kubernetes 
Kubernetes is a complex beast but Erik has spent the past couple of years in an attempt to tame it. He has experience both as a Kubernetes administrator (mostly using AKS, but also on-prem installations using Rancher) and as an application developer.

Python 
Unless there's a good reason to pick something else, Erik will pick Python. He just really like the language and for his use cases (mostly scripting or non-performance critical projects) Python is great.

Bash 
Erik has a solid experience with Bash, having working predominantly (and preferably) with Linux deployments. Coming pre-installed on most systems, Bash in an excellent tool for automations due to its portability.

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.

CHALMERS UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

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.

Theses: BSc: `http://bit.ly/2g04d3q` & MSc: `https://bit.ly/2tHBCZD`

Aug '11–Jun '12 **Team Training School West (TTS)**, Dalkarlså Community College, Dalkarlså.

Dalkarlså folkhögskola

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 |`