Paul Sweeney

DEVOPS & PLATFORM ENGINEERING LEADER

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PROFILE

Experienced engineering professional with a long track record of building and running reliable delivery platforms. Strong background in modernising legacy systems, supporting cloud adoption, and putting practical engineering platforms in place that teams actually use. Acknowledged as fixing hard technical problems, improving stability, and providing clear technical direction when things are unclear. Brings hands-on experience across build, test, deployment, observability, and release, and works closely with engineers to raise standards and introduce automation that reduces operational effort and long-term cost.

CORE COMPETENCIES/TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

DevOps & Cloud Platforms: Kubernetes, K8S, AKS, GKE, KubeVela, Docker, Azure DevOps, Git, Helm, Crossplane, Linux, Ubuntu

Automation & Scripting: Terraform, Ansible, Bash, PowerShell, Python, Scripting, CI/CD, Octopus Deploy, TeamCity, GoCD

Monitoring & Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, Alertmanager, Datadog, Greylog

Developer Platforms / IDP/ DevEx: Backstage, Internal Developer Platforms, Platform Engineering, AgenticAI, Agentic Coding

Programming & Engineering: C#, .NET, .NET Core, ASP.NET, Multithreading, SQL, XML, Web Services, C++, C, Fortran, SaaS

Networks & Infrastructure: Cisco, CCNA, WAN, MPLS, BGP, VPN, IPSEC, SNMP

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

TravelRepublic, Part of Emirates Group, Remote Jan 2013 – Jan 2026
Senior Developer, DevOps Platform Engineering SME (Aug 2019 – Jan 2026)

Lead strategic direction across platform engineering landscape, guiding technical decision-making, modernisation initiatives, and engineering alignment across multi-cloud environments. Manage Kubernetes platforms across six self-managed clusters, ensuring automated provisioning, resilience patterns, and consistent operational integrity through advanced observability tooling. Direct release governance by defining branching strategy, communication channels, and pipeline automation while stewarding broader deployment estate through TeamCity, GoCD, and Octopus systems. Strengthen architecture foundations through systematic refactoring, unit-test enablement, and code-base modernisation, including significant migration of legacy components into C#.

Key Contributions:

- Championed early adoption of AgenticAI Coding by producing practical introductory material and offering hands-on guidance, demonstrating to colleagues and managers the time savings and quality improvements possible.
- Reduced operational complexity through consolidation of legacy deployment tooling into a more coherent & maintainable platform, gaining modern features and reducing contact points required by developers.
- Elevated software quality by restructuring critical components to support unit testing and by migrating over 250,000 lines of code from VB.NET to C#, reducing dependency on legacy skillsets and increasing maintainability.
- Established a unified standard pipeline improving DevOps consistency across Linux & Windows build, deploy & monitoring processes, allowing over 100 workloads to go from first local code to AKS/GKE multicloud Kubernetes production deploy in minutes or hours rather than previous weeks or months of unnecessary learning curve.
- Protected business continuity during lockdown by adapting a customer self-service automated booking-cancellation feature into a bulk facility, allowing the processing of 100,000 bookings and freeing non-furloughed service centre staff to support customers.
- Authored a library to give compile-time errors for recurring currency-conversion issues, removing the runtime errors entirely.
- Boosted production resilience by managing six bare-metal Kubernetes clusters, created with an Ansible playbook implementing Prometheus, Grafana, and AlertManager with notifications to Slack/Teams, giving zero downtime for the hosted workloads in 6 years of peak trading periods.

Acumentive Ltd, Remote Aug 2007 – Jan 2013
Software Development Lead

Joined as the sole technical consultant & developer, working directly with the Managing Director on everything from customer-facing technical discussions to pre- and post-sales support and hands-on development. Wrote Python utility scripts to simplify product build and testing within a third-party framework. Designed and built a common C# application framework to speed up delivery and allow flexible configuration across different hardware and backend systems, supporting Windows, web, and Compact Framework mobile deployments backed by SQL Server. As the work grew, built and led the technical team of four consultants.

Key Contributions:

- Acted as a key technical lead, keeping up-to-date knowledge of core technologies and maintaining steady working relationships with suppliers in RFID, Ultrasonic ID, and Real-Time Location Systems, allowing several industry-leading projects through strong partnerships.
- Supported the organisation's pioneering remote working model by putting practical systems in place for bug tracking, project management, wiki collaboration, change control, data back-ups, and DVCS version control, increasing transparency and manageability despite the distributed nature of the company.
- Improved testing and demonstration work by introducing Virtual Machine tools such as Virtual PC and VMWare allowing the MD & sales lead to demo to clients with repeatability and confidence.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

.NET E-Commerce Developer | Commercial Services, Kent County Council, UK, Aug 2005 – Aug 2007

Lead Developer & Website Testing Consultant | SciVisum Ltd, Sittingbourne, Kent, UK, Jan 2004 – Jul 2005

IT Systems Engineer (Advanced CCTV Systems) | Astraguard Ltd, Sevenoaks, Kent, UK, Apr 2003 – Dec 2003

Software Development Engineer | Viewgate Networks, Sevenoaks, Kent, UK, Dec 1999 – Aug 2002

Simulator Maintenance & Development Engineer | Magnox Electric plc, Oldbury Training Centre, South Glos, UK, May 1996 – Dec 1999

Control & Instrumentation Engineer | Nuclear Electric plc, Berkeley Technology Centre, Glos, UK, Jun 1989 – May 1996

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATIONS

Chartered Engineer (CEng) | Engineering Council, UK, since 2005

Institution Member (MIET) | Institute of Engineering and Technology (formerly IEE) , since 1993

Master of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (MEng) | Imperial College, London, UK, since 1992

TECHNICAL CERTIFICATIONS

Linux Foundation CKA | Kubernetes Admin, 2021

IKM C# v4.0 | Developer, Score 99/100, 2012

GS1 EPCglobal | Barcode and RFID Certification, 2011

MCAD C# | Developer, 2003

Cisco CCNA | Network Admin, 2002

Microsoft MCSE NT4 | System Admin, 1999

OPEN-SOURCE CONTRIBUTIONS & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CNCF KubeVela Project | Contributor | GitHub & Slack community

A Hello World for AgenticAI Coding | Creator | YouTube - https://youtu.be/t88im_V3zQg

K9S (Kubernetes CLI UI) | Contributor | Github & Slack community

Ansible-Role-Pi-K8S (RPi4 Kubernetes cluster installer) | Author | GitHub

Kolossi.EasyLife null-tolerant LINQ library | Author | NuGet & GitHub

Octopus Deploy Task Template library PRs | Contributor | GitHub

Python 2.x core finalizer bug repro contributor | Contributor | Python.org community

Kube-Prometheus documentation | Contributor | GitHub

Engineering explainer docs and internal talks (Async/Await deadlocks, SQL transactions, CGroup throttling, etc.) | Author/Presenter

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Private Pilot Licence | JAA-PPL(A)/SEP, 180 hours in the logbook

Advanced Driving Qualifications | IAM

Previously voluntary roles | Parent Governor, Parish Councillor

Pickleball player | DUPR rating 3.0-3.5