

Craig Simpson

Lead Cloud Architect / Engineer

Contact Information

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Date of Birth: 10-01-1985, St. Johns, Canada

Nationality: Dual Citizenship, U.K / Canadian

Driving License: Full (U.K)

GitHub: [OldManYellsAtK8s](https://github.com/OldManYellsAtK8s)

Professional Summary

Lead Cloud Architect with over a decade of experience in system engineering; specialising in production-grade Linux environments, enterprise data centres, and multi-cloud platforms including AWS, Azure, and OpenStack.

Proven record of accomplishment in delivering and highly-available, fault-tolerant, and scalable architectures from proof of concept to full production deployment.

Widely versed in cloud migration practices, automation principles, and DevOps / DevSecOps standards, with a strong commitment to collaboration and engineering excellence.

Skills

- **Public Cloud Platforms:** AWS, Azure, Oracle, DigitalOcean, CloudFlare.
- **Private Cloud Platforms:** Canonical OpenStack, Red Hat OpenStack Platform, VCloud Director.
- **Containers:** Docker, Kubernetes, OpenShift
- **Software Defined Storage:** Red Hat CEPH, SUSE Enterprise Storage, Pure Storage (Portworx), Rook.io.
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Heat
- **Operating Systems:** Linux (SUSE, RedHat, Ubuntu).
- **CI/CD:** Travis, Jenkins, Drone.io, Concourse, Argo CD, GitLab CI, GitHub Actions.
- **Configuration Management:** Ansible, SaltStack, Helm.
- **Logging and Monitoring:** Elastic, SumoLogic, DataDog Logs, Splunk, Grafana, CloudWatch / Logs, Azure Monitor Logs, OpenSearch.
- **Load Balancing:** Avi Traffic Manager, F5, Nginx, HAProxy, Brocade Traffic Manager
- **Networking:** AWS, Azure, Brocade, Cisco, OVS/OVN

- **Agile Methodologies**
 - **Scripting:** Python, BASH.
 - **Version Control Systems:** Git, SVN.
 - **Databases:** MySQL, MongoDB, PostgreSQL.
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Professional Experience

Principal Cloud Architect

Bauer Media (Remote) February 2025 – Present

- Scale the backend for the mobile app Rayo to multiple regions.
- Right-Shore user databases to the right regions as per GDPR.
- Act as Cloud SME on the Technology Steering Board for Bauer Digital Audio (all radio networks / podcasts delivered over IP).
- Write integration patterns and standardisation documents.
- Promote reusability of hardened infrastructure blueprints,

Cloud Architect

KX (Remote) July 2023 – December 2024

- Serving as internal and customer-facing consultant for Kubernetes-based analytics stack.
- Engaging in requirements gathering, validating cloud environments, and customizing Terraform/Helm scripts.
- Documenting and transitioning builds to application teams.

Lead Architect (OpenStack, Azure, AWS, DevOps)

Rackspace (Remote) April 2021 – February 2023

- SME for OpenStack architecture within EMEA, supporting a government client's private cloud transformation.
- Designing modernization strategies and migrating legacy systems.
- Providing high-level and low-level designs, containerization recommendations, and cloud migration guidance.

Senior DevOps Engineer

SECCCL, Bath January 2020 – April 2020

- Re-architected VM-based monolithic design to service-oriented architecture using AWS Lambda.
- Implemented Terraform for infrastructure automation, introduced monitoring solutions, and authored process documents.

Cloud Architecture Consultant (Remote)

O2, Slough, UK November 2019 – December 2020

- Guided design and implementation of OpenStack-based private clouds to host their packet-core 5G infrastructure.
- Proposed architecture changes, automated implementations, and documented procedures.

Senior Red Hat Infrastructure Consultant

Crossvale (Remote/On Customer Premises) March 2019 – November 2019

- Delivered Red Hat infrastructure layer products, including OpenShift, OpenStack, and CEPH.
- Worked with customers deploying products like Red Hat Identity Manager, Red Hat Satellite, Red Hat Enterprise Linux.
- Authored Ansible playbooks and supported containerisation initiatives – from Dockerfiles to, Kubernetes Deployment files.

Senior Systems Engineer

Backbase, Cardiff December 2018 – March 2019

- Supported global DevOps needs, extended CI/CD platforms, and implemented Kubernetes-based systems for workload automation.

Platform Engineer (DevOps)

Capgemini, UK Wide February 2018 – December 2018

- Implemented microservices architecture using AWS tools and HashiCorp Terraform.
- Developed CI/CD infrastructure, migrated legacy systems, and provided cloud solutions.

Senior Infrastructure Engineer

thevoicefactory, Nantgarw

November 2015 – February 2018

- Led OpenStack cloud strategy, managed multi-cluster environments, and automated deployment processes using SaltStack.

System Engineer

thevoicefactory, Nantgarw July 2012 – November 2015

- Scoped and designed customer deployments, provided training, and authored disaster recovery guides.

Education

BSc Computer Forensics

University of South Wales, Treforrest August 2008 – March 2012

- Focus on Networking and Network Security, programming, hard drive recovery, and e-Discovery.
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Certifications

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect: Associate
 - Red Hat Delivery Specialist - Container Platform Administration I & II
 - Red Hat Delivery Specialist - Cloud Infrastructure I
 - Red Hat Delivery Specialist - Container Platform Application Deployment I
 - AZ-104: Microsoft Azure Administrator
 - AZ-900: Microsoft Azure Fundamentals
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Courses

- Deploying SUSE Cloud, SUSE Conference
 - Oracle SBC Configuration and Administration, Oracle Academy
 - AWS: Designing Infrastructure, QA
 - Docker: Enterprise, Docker Inc.
 - Red Hat OpenShift Administration, Red Hat
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Personal Interests

- Lifelong guitarist and avid climber exploring locations from Wales to Saudi Arabia.
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References

- **Iain Radford**, Telefonica UK (O2)
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