

Craig Simpson

Lead Cloud Architect / Engineer

Contact Information

Cardiff, UK

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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](#)

Professional Summary

Experienced Cloud Architect with a tried and true background in production-grade Linux environments.

I have designed, built and/or extended many Public / Cloud platforms, including automating the infrastructure deployment.

I tend to treat cloud agnostically, where and select which vendor based on which is the best for the particular customer or has significant cost benefits.

Skills

Any skill is at a competency level where I was using it in a professional capacity.

- **Public Cloud Platforms:** AWS, Azure, Oracle
- **Private Cloud Platforms:** Red Hat OpenStack Platform, Canonical OpenStack.
Familiar with the Open Source Ansible-Kolla and Triple-O packages.
- **Containers Platforms:** Docker, EKS / AKS / Rancher, Red Hat OpenShift, Canonical Charmed Kubernetes.
- **Software Defined Storage:** Red Hat CEPH, SUSE Enterprise Storage, Longhorn, PortWorx
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Heat, ARM
- **Operating Systems:** Linux (SUSE, Red Hat, Ubuntu)
- **CI/CD:** Travis, Jenkins, Argo CD, Drone.io, Concourse, GitLab CI, GitHub Actions
- **Configuration Management:** Ansible, SaltStack, Helm, Kubernetes Spec.
- **Logging and Monitoring:** ELK, Prometheus, Splunk
- **Load Balancing:** Avi Traffic Manager, F5, Nginx, HAProxy.
- **Networking:** Cisco Catalyst / Nexus, Brocade NetIron, OVS.
- **Scripting:** Python, BASH, Groovy, LUA.
- **Version Control Systems:** Git, SVN

- **Databases:** Comfortable with SQL variants, KX KDB, NoSQL.
 - **Vendor Management:** Making sure any vendor designs / proposals are fit for purpose within an existing infrastructure.
 - **RFP Authorship / Responses:** Acting as the source of truth on any technical decisions or requirements that are stated. Responding to RFP's we bid on with the technical explanations of our pitch.
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Professional Experience

Cloud Architect

KX (Remote)

July 2023 – December 2024

- Serving as internal and customer-facing consultant for our Kubernetes-based analytics / big data stack.
- Engaging in requirements gathering, validating cloud environments, and customizing Terraform/Helm scripts.
- Documenting and transitioning builds to the “day 3” 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.
- Creating the order of preference

Senior DevOps Engineer

SECCL, 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.
- 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.
- Authored Ansible playbooks and supported containerization initiatives.

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, Treforest**August 2008 – March 2012*

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

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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- **Iain Whitman**, The Voice Factory (Evolve IP)
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