MIKE CHARLES

Email: serverlessmike@gmail.com
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Mobile: 07798 524905
Locations considered: London or the South-East
Availability: 3 months' notice required
Education: BSc in Computer Science from the University of Manchester

Personal Profile

I am a Senior Architect with over fifteen years in this capacity and over twenty-five years in IT. I'm a passionate advocate of serverless architecture and keen supporter of AWS. I'm very hands-on (1000 GitHub contributions in the last year), and I pride myself in being about to switch between talking to C-level executives and developers in their own language.

I am currently working for River Island in their Tech hub. This community has been widely held up as an example to other UK retailers for its approach to digital transformation. We are now over two years into moving River Island to an event-based architecture using microservices. My role in this transformation was to lead the infrastructure design and implementation.

In a previous role, I was part of the design team for Europe's first public cloud. I have practical experience with all major hosting strategies, hardware architectures and operating systems. Over my career, I have amassed extensive management, mentoring and technical leadership experience. I am qualified as a PM, BA and I am ITIL trained. I worked with John Lewis, to develop a technology architecture strategy. I then went on to serve as Global Head of Infrastructure Architecture for Specsavers, on an interim basis. When that role was filled by a permanent member of staff, I moved to Selfridges & Co as their only Architect specialising in Infrastructure.

Key Skills

Architecture
Implementation on public clouds, particularly AWS
Extensive experience in aligning technology strategy to business aims
New reference models produced and consumed
Extensive experience in producing technology roadmaps
Experience producing high and low level designs
Experience in teaching good practice to new solution architects

Technology
All hosting strategies
Cloud migration
All Operating Systems
AWS, Terraform, Python, shell
Apache, Tomcat, Squid, DMZ design
SQL and NoSQL databases
Routers, firewalls, load-balancing, LANs, TCP/IP, FTP

Business
Excellent communication skills; written, verbal and presentation
Man management experience
Detailed knowledge of HA, DR and BC

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Career History

Infrastructure Lead River Island Feb 17 – current

- Lead the design and implementation of the new infrastructure on AWS

- Acted as advocate for serverless design to the Solution Architects and advised DevOps community on best practices

- Added value by implementing several new serverless functions

Lead Architect for Retail Innovation Retail Reply (Part of Reply Ltd) Jan 16 – Feb 17

- Placed on site at Selfridges to work with the Head of Business Solutions to create a server and hosting strategy and to produce a new technology reference model.

- Part of a team of five senior Consultants that successfully delivered a new strategy for Primark. I was responsible for all of the technology domain.

- Global Head of Infrastructure Architecture for Specsavers on an interim basis. I led all aspects of infrastructure strategy and planning across eleven countries.

Senior Consultant Glue Reply (Part of Reply Ltd) Oct 12 – Dec 15

- Successfully re-organised the Solution Architecture capability of John Lewis Partnership Services. This included new processes, roles and responsibilities.

- Shaped over a thirty IT projects, with a combined value of several £million.

- Led the architecture side of a programme of work, which successfully redistributed Sainsbury's head office employees around the UK from London. This included the infrastructure for multiple green field site projects.

Architect (contract) Sun Microsystems **/** Fujitsu /
RBS / KPMG / EDF Energy May 95 – Oct 12

Open Systems Consultant BP (permanent) Oct 90 – May 95