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Experienced technical leader with a proven track record of leading teams, shaping strategy, and driving large-scale reliability initiatives. Adept at mentoring engineers, setting technical direction, and aligning engineering efforts with business goals to maximise impact.

Expert in distributed systems architecture, low-level systems programming, and cloud-native platforms, with hands-on experience designing, operating, and optimising highly available, large-scale infrastructure.

Recognised for driving cross-organisational change, collaborating with stakeholders, service teams, and leadership to implement best practices in SRE, observability, and incident management. Led initiatives that reduced incident resolution time, increased deployment reliability, and enhanced service resilience.

A trusted mentor and technical evangelist, having contributed to the Azure SRE Playbook, organised learning sessions, and onboarded engineers globally. Public speaker on Kubernetes, SRE, Observability, and Chaos Engineering, with a passion for fostering high-performing engineering cultures.

- Technical Leadership & Mentorship
- Key Stakeholder Management
- Staff Training

- Distributed Systems & Low-Level Systems Programming
- Chaos Engineering & Resilience Testing
- CI/CD, Deployment Orchestration, Infrastructure as Code

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!"#\$%!&'(#!) #\*'\$+'\*'(,!-. /'. ##0, Databricks (neon.tech), Hamburg, Germany

06/2025 until present

Joined the <u>neon.tech</u> team just days before the acquisition by Databricks to lead a team of 7 engineers with a diverse skillset across reliability and infrastructure engineering during the post-acquisition integration of Neon into Databricks. Driving organisational change, technical migration, and strategic alignment with Databricks' mature platform ecosystem. Representing operational and infrastructure needs in cross-functional leadership forums to ensure stability, maintainability, and clear team purpose during the transition.

- 1#2'/. '. /!\$. %!\*#\$%'. /!(3#!40/\$. '2\$54. \$\*!26\*'( of the former Neon SRE/Infra team into two focused teams (SRE & Platform Engineering), defining roles, responsibilities, and ownership boundaries for improved execution and clarity within the new Databricks organisation.
- 74. %895. /!0#/8\*\$0!: ;: 2 to gather team preferences and concerns, feeding into a team charter and structure aligned with individual growth paths and company needs.
- <8(340'. /! \$! %#(\$'\*#%! '. (#/0\$54.!6\*\$. and design documents covering migration of observability, GitHub infrastructure, and ZTNA access to existing Databricks solutions, ensuring a successful integration into Databricks.
- 70#\$54. =! >\$'. (#. \$. 9#! \$. %! 60'40'52\$54. of an infrastructure tech debt backlog to ensure focused improvements during the migration phase and beyond.

&#. '40!&'(#!) #\*'\$+'\*'(,!-. /'. ##0!?!@#93. '9\$\*!"#\$%, Microsoft, Hamburg, Germany 02/2022 to 05/2025

Technical Lead in Azure's Safe Change infrastructure SRE Team, responsible for chaos engineering, resiliency validation, and release infrastructure Harmonisation: Led the modernisation of Azure's release infrastructure, migrating 60+ repositories and 600+ pipelines, increasing deployment reliability and speed across multiple critical customer-facing services including, among others, Azure Cosmos DB, Log Analytics, Web Apps & Function Apps.

## Cedric Specht

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- B\*\$C40>!-. /'. ##0'. /!D!1#EF62!-A6#052#: Developed platform tooling improvements to streamline engineering workflows and improve developer experience and led shift-left initiatives, integrating early validation mechanisms to catch issues earlier in the development lifecycle.
- 73\$42!-. /'. ##0'. /!D!) #2'\*'#. 9#!G\$\*'%\$54.: Designed and implemented Chaos Engineering experiments to validate system failure hypotheses covering 80% of high-impact critical customer scenarios and improve resilience strategies and built synthetic monitoring and business validation testing to proactively identify and mitigate reliability risks.
- F0/\$. '2#%!>8\*56\*#!'. (#0. \$\*!\*#\$0. '. /!2#22'4. 2, developing a 9-part self-guided onboarding tutorial as part of the SRE Academy, enabling new engineers to onboard 75% faster to the new release system.
- "#\$%#023'6!\$. %!@#\$>!H\$. \$/#>#. (: Technical lead & Scrum Master for my immediate team of 5 engineers, responsible for setting technical direction, mentoring, and defining strategies and goals for the team as well as the broader department, serving as the technical lead for a newly formed team within the Safe Change Infrastructure SRE organisation, and supporting to multiple program managers and teams from across three other SRE organisations in bootstrapping new SRE engagements.
- 70422IF0/!74\*\*\$+40\$54. !\$. %!&(\$J#34\*%#0!-. /\$/#>#. (: Partnered with 10+ service teams across Azure to help them migrate to the new release system, contributing high-quality pull requests to their repositories as best-practice examples driving down change related outages by 20%.
- &) -!K#2(!B0\$959#2!\$. !L. 4M\*#%/#!&3\$0'. /: Core Contributor & Committee Member for the Azure SRE Playbook, authoring a new SRE pattern with 3 sub-patterns and overseeing the review and integration of 3 additional major patterns.
- @#93. '9\$\*!-E\$. /#\*'2>!D!\. (#0. \$\*!@0\$'.'. /: Speaker at Azure SRE Tech Talks, delivering sessions on reliability, deployment strategies, and platform engineering.
- H\$'. (\$'. #%!\$. %!#A6\$. %#%!(3#!<080#!&) -!P'J', working across all SRE organisations to standardise and document operational excellence.
- )#94/. '54. !D!<M\$0%2: Azure Reliability Quality Star Leadership Excellence Award for sustained high-quality contributions to Azure's engineering culture and reliability improvements.

@#931\*#\$%!H\$. \$/#0!L8+#0. #(#2!&) -, German Edge Cloud, Hamburg, Germany 07/2020 to 01/2022

Built and led the Kubernetes SRE Team: Established and scaled a remote team from two to 6 highly skilled SREs, taking full ownership of the company's Managed Kubernetes Platform, spread across 3 availability zones and hosting 50+ customer clusters. Ensured only high-quality changes made it into production by reviewing code, design documents, and architecture changes daily, implementing state of the art GitOps tooling and observability, resulting in a 75% reduction in change related outages over 12 months.

- N. 9'%#. (!D!73\$. /#!H\$. \$/#>#. (: Developed and implemented new incident, change, and problem management processes, improving reliability and operational efficiency, enabling an average 10 minute time-to-engage and reducing time-to-mitigation by several hours on average through more streamlined and efficient incident management processes and standard operating procedures.
- 70422108. 954. \$\*174\*\*\$+40\$54.: Worked closely with the Service Management team to improve incident response, change reviews, and operational excellence as well as the Infrastructure, OpenStack, and CEPH Storage teams, ensuring seamless integration and optimised performance across compute, storage, and networking layers resulting in 10% increased storage throughput and decrease in etcd commit latencies driving customer satisfaction.
- B\*\$C40>!D!B04%89(!"#\$%#023'6: Took on the Product and Platform Owner role, shielding the team from unnecessary business complexity while aligning priorities with company strategy and CTO directives.
- 0'. \$. 9'\$\*!FE#02'/3(!D!742(!F65 > '2\$54.: Managed the budget for the Managed Kubernetes Service, including forecasting infrastructure costs and collaborating with accounting on financial planning.
- &\$\*#2!D!B0'9'. /!&(0\$(#/,: Worked with Sales and Finance leadership to define a competitive pricing structure for the Kubernetes offering.
- 7\*48%IR\$5E#!D!F6#. l&4809#!<%E49\$9, : Fostered a culture of open-source collaboration, contributing improvements back to the cloud-native community and positioning the company's offerings within CNCF certification programs.

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&#. '40!K\$9J#. %!&4SM\$0#!-. /'. ##0, Adjoe, Hamburg, Germany

04/2020 to 06/2020

- K\$9J#. %!<B\!! 1\#E\#\*46>\#. (: Developed and optimised high-performance GoLang APIs, integrating with AWS services and AWS Athena to support scalable data processing.
- </\*\*#!1#E#\*46>#. (!D!74\*\*\$+40\$54.: Worked within a fast-paced startup environment, collaborating closely with cross-functional teams to deliver rapid iterations of API features.

&'(#!)#''\$+'''(,!-./'.##0!U=!&3\$0#B4'.(!F.\*'.#, Microsoft, Dublin, Ireland)

01/2019 to 03/2020

Running Live-Site operations for one of the largest M365 services with over 200 million monthly active users and over 1 exabyte of data, including incident response and management, rapidly diagnosing and resolving critical issues to maintain SharePoint Online's 99,99% SLA.

- 1'2\$2(#0!) #94E#0, !DIN. T0\$2(089(80#!H4%#0. '2\$54. : Led an initiative to improve disaster recovery playbooks using a more resilient storage solution, ensuring recovery procedures remained accessible even during blackout scenarios.
- F. +4\$0%'. /!D!V\*4+\$\*!-A6\$. 2'4.: Played a key role in onboarding and training a new SRE team in China, enabling 24/7 follow-the-sun operations.
- 74 >> 8. '(,!D!L. 4M\*#%/#!&3\$0'. /: Organised meet-ups for Microsoft Ireland's Open Source Club

&4SM\$0#!-. /'. ##0!R#(M40J!&#980'(, , Sophos, Karlsruhe, Germany

01/2017 to 12/2018

- R#(M40J!&#980'(, !D!@30#\$(!1#(#954.: Worked on the Synchronised Security Engine, significantly improving network threat detection rates compared to competing vendors.
- NB&#9!D!R#(M40J!B04(494\*!N>6\*#>#. (\$54.: Worked on the implementation of IPsec IKEv2 in the Linux Kernel for the Firewall Appliance
- &9\$\*\$+\\*'(, !D!"4\$\!\!\!#25. /: Implemented extensive firewall load testing using the Ixia BreakingPoint platform, ensuring performance under high traffic loads. Developed custom load-testing frameworks with Python Mininet SDN, simulating concurrent user traffic.
- @#25. /!D!) #\*#\$2#!<99#\*#0\$54.: Expanded the integration test suite for firewall products, leading to faster and more reliable release cycles.

&4SM\$0#!-. /'. ##0, MARKANT Handels and Service GmbH, Germany

08/2015 to 12/2016

- II. T0\$2(089(80#!H4%#0. '2\$54.: Led a department-wide initiative migrating from CVS to Git, upgrading IDE versions, and implementing a CI/CD pipeline for improved development workflows, increasing deployment velocity from once a week to multiple times a day.
- F6#0\$54. \$\*!&86640(!@44\*'. /: Built custom tools to assist operations teams, enhancing incident response times in highly time-sensitive trading systems.
- H#. (4023'6!D!@0\$'.'./: Trained apprentices and junior engineers in software architecture, clean code principles, and design patterns.

W8. '40!&4SM\$0#!-. /'. ##0, Streit Datentechnik GmbH, Haslach im Kinzigtal, Germany 09/2012 to 07/2015

- &4SM\$0#!1#E#\*46>#. (: Learned MS Visual C++, C# .NET, MS T-SQL, MFC, and the Win32 API, broadening problem-solving capabilities across multiple technologies.
- )#E#02#!-. /'. ##0'. /!D!<. \$\*, 2'2: Developed a disassembler to read dependencies from Windows-PE and C# executables for debugging and system analysis.

## Cedric Specht

&4SM\$0#!-. /'. ##0'. /, 2015 X Gewerblich-Technische Schulen Offenburg, Offenburg im Kinzigtal, Germany )#\$\*2938\*#, 2012 X Realschule Schramberg, Schramberg, Germany

"\$. /8\$/#!B04^9'#. 9'#2!	
German (Native) X English (Proficient)	
-A(0\$17800'98*\$0!<95E'5#2!	
1#FF621"#\$%II 8+#0 #(#2100V7M/0*% Chaos Computer Club	12/2021

1#EF621"#\$%!L8+#0. #(#2!09Y2lVl40"%, Chaos Computer Club

Supported the rc3.world backend team as part of the rC3 infrastructure team, overseeing and maintaining a Kubernetes cluster and a complex multi-staged Elixir deployment hosting the remote congress experience.

- F093#2(0\$(#%!\$!3'/3\*, !\$E\$'\*\$+\*#!-\*'A'0!<66\*'9\$54. using Kubernetes, Kustomize, Helm, ArgoCD, ingress-nginx, certmanager, and the kube-prometheus-stack.
- F65>'2#%!+8'\*%!D!%#6\*4, >#. (!6049#22 by enhancing the Dockerfile layout to use a multi-stage build process, ensuring a smaller and more efficient production image.
- K8'\*(!\$. %!>\$'. (\$'. #%!\$!>8\*512(\$/#!V'("\$+!7\\6'6#\*'. # to compile, verify, and deploy documentation for the Elixir application powering the event.

[#\$%!4T!R#(M40J=!VBR: \?: ], Entropia e.V.

01/2018 to 06/2019

Led the network infrastructure team of over 15 volunteers with a diverse background for one of the largest CCC events in Germany after the Chaos Communication Congress, acting as the primary representative towards event management, handling sponsor acquisition, multi-homed BGP connectivity, budget management, and logistics for a fault-tolerant network.

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- [4>#!"\$+: Operate two Kubernetes clusters using ClusterAPI on Hetzner, K3s on Raspberry Pis, as well as a Raspberry Pi based CEPH storage cluster, providing a solid testbed for distributed systems research.
- 1#6\*4, >#. (!D!<8(4>\$54.: ArgoCD/GitOps-based Kubernetes deployments and Ansible for bare metal services.
- F+2#0E\$+'\*'(,!D!H4.'(40'./: Maintaining a full observability platform running on Kubernetes consisting of the Grafana LGTM Stack (Mimir, Loki, and Tempo) and Thanos for metrics, logs, and traces, ensuring real-time visibility into performance.
- R#(M40J'. /!D!&#980'(,: Build and manage a zero-trust home network using Tailscale, leveraging ACL-based access control for network segmentation and security.
- F6#. !&4809#!74. (0'+854. 2: Actively contribute to multiple open-source projects

@\$\*J2

- Site Reliability Engineering Explained An Exploration of DevOps, Platform Engineering, and SRE
- Understanding Alerting How to come up with a good enough alerting strategy
- Modern Observability Scalable Observability with the LGTM Stack: Harnessing the Power of Loki, Grafana, Tempo, and Mimir
- From 0 to Kubernetes Eine Einführung zur Container-Orchestrierung mit praktischen Antworten auf die häufigsten Fragen wie "warum?" oder "wann?"
- Congratulations, it's a Kubernetes! But now what?
- · Hilfe, ich bin Manager und jetzt? Oder auch: Wie man in der IT Karriere machen kann