Andy Howden

STAFF ENGINEER

Details

Berlin, 10245
Germany
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Links

Udemy (Instructor)

Blog

Linked In

GitHub

Skills

Site Reliability Engineering

Incident Response

System Design

Go

NodeJS

Languages

English

German

Profile

A "solver-style" staff+ software engineer, focusing on delivering simple, elegant software solutions to challenging business problems. See more via LinkedIn, or reach out for more information — email is best.

Employment History

Instructor, Udemy, Berlin

AUGUST 2023 — PRESENT

- Taught Observability concepts and implementation in open-source tooling to 133 students (October 4th to December 4th)
- Over 29 reviews maintained an average rating of 4.5+.
- Feedback-driven approach via early beta community, early release of minimum viable course & free "YouTube" content.

Engineering Manager, Zalando, Berlin

DECEMBER 2021 — AUGUST 2023

- Created a new, 4-person Embedded Site Reliability Engineering team (in collaboration with peers and management) focused on the customer experience between "add to cart" and "warehouse."
- Led that team to drive solutions to multi-million euro reliability challenges over 4 business units and over 100 engineers like abusive traffic, customer-centric SLOs, improved alerting practices, and preparation for large sales events (e.g., CyberWeek)
- Created a shared vision and understanding of the team's purpose and deliverables among the team, leaders and the engineering population through yearly strategies and a structured review.

SRE & Staff Engineer, Zalando, Berlin

OCTOBER 2019 — DECEMBER 2021

- Steered the CyberWeek Operational Readiness workstream via 10s of coordinators, helping over 1500 engineers across thousands of software systems.
- Taught 60 staff engineers how to work with owning teams to determine if an application was sufficiently "production ready" and how to conduct post-incident analysis.
- Functioned as the "incident responder in charge" (Incident Commander) of 10+ critical customer-facing issues.

Infrastructure Engineer, MageMojo, Berlin

MARCH 2019 — JULY 2021

- Maintained 20,000 service Kubernetes clusters.
- Debugged open-source issues in Kubernetes, with the kube-proxy, certificate management, "out of memory" management, and disk management
- Built the CI/CD Infrastructure based on drone.io.

etc

MAY 2014 — MARCH 2019

Additional experience available via LinkedIn. No tertiary education; I have learned my way through extensive reading, my experience and the help of colleagues.