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# Alex Wicks

## About Me

 I have a breadth of IT experience, with over 6 years of varied industry experience, and a keen personal interest since childhood, having built my first PC at the age of 5. I have worked across cloud & on-premises environments and feel comfortable in either. I have extensive experience with Linux, having used it for over 10 years and completed a Red Hat RHCSA certification (ID 180-199-853). I enjoy automation and reducing toil - I don't like solving the same problem twice. This ranges from scripting, programming in Python and Go, using GitOps, to tools such as Terraform & Ansible. I have worked in Agile/Scrum environments, as well as in cross-functional teams. I am capable of taking initiative to plan, drive and deliver projects, either working autonomously or with others.

## Experience

### Speechmatics

#### Sr. Site Reliability Engineer  Jan. 2023 — Present

 In addition to previous responsiblities - primary technical contact for all on-premises resources (networking, VMware, SAN, etc). Setup of high-performance bare-metal GPU clusters (NVidia H100 & A100). Leading best practices in our Kubernetes environments - e.g. implementing a GitOps CI/CD workflow using GitLab CI and ArgoCD, which reduced deployment time across our environments from days to hours as well as adding extra quality checks.

#### Site Reliability Engineer  Jan. 2022 — Jan. 2023

 Working in a hybrid-cloud environment spanning Azure & colocated datacentre. Infrastructure deployments using GitLab CI, Terraform, Ansible & cloud-init. Involvement with production SaaS environment running in Azure: platform setup, incident response, maintenance. Monitoring and incident management using Datadog, Prometheus, Grafana & OpsGenie. Planned and executed a datacentre migration to a new colocation. Extensive use of Azure AD, AKS, PostgreSQL Flexible Server, Azure File Storage, Front Door & Event Hubs amongst others.

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### Capgemini HMRC Market Unit

#### Platform Engineer  Jul. 2021 — Dec. 2021

 Platform monitoring in a cloud-native (AWS) environment - K8S & legacy EC2. Prometheus monitoring across thousands of nodes, aggregation & long-term retention across all clusters using Thanos. Implementation of blackbox monitoring system for crucial platform services e.g. Consul, Vault - monitoring breaches of SLAs for these services. Migration of monitoring services from legacy EC2 stack into K8S. Deployments using Packer, Terraform, cloud-init, Ansible. Extensive use of EC2, EKS, S3, ELB, ALB & RDS amongst others.

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### Flextrade

#### DevOps Engineer  Aug. 2020 — Jul. 2021

 Create bare-metal k8s deployment using PXE automation. Migrate CI/CD to new k8s deployment, reducing build times by 40%. Pilot hybrid-cloud bursting workloads into AWS. Lead cross-functional initiative for continuous delivery framework.

#### Systems Administrator  Jan. 2020 — Aug. 2020

 In addition to previous responsiblities - Mentoring & training junior engineers to complete BAU tasks. Implementing automation framework for deploying VMs from helpdesk tickets. Other automations & custom tooling (Python) to reduce toil.

#### Jr. Systems Administrator  Mar. 2019 — Jan. 2020

 Operations & incident response in an on-premises, multi-tenant SaaS environment, spanning multiple geolocations. Linux administration & config management: RHEL, Puppet, Ansible etc. - bare-metal & virtualised. Hypervisor administration: VMware ESXi & vSphere. Storage administration: iSCSI SANs, NFS file servers. Database administration: PostgreSQL HA clusters, MariaDB/MySQL. Windows administration: DHCP, DNS, Active Directory, Citrix, etc. Network administration: Cisco ASA firewall & VPN, nginx & HAProxy load balancers, Layer 2 switching, TLS, packet capture troubleshooting & analysis (tcpdump, wireshark, mitmdump).

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Further history available upon request