Dan Slinky

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❯_Introduction

- Technical experience and leadership on diverse projects in **Platform Engineering**, **SRE**, and **DevSecOps** roles, focussing on container orchestration and seamless integration.
- Proficient in **Docker**, **Kubernetes**, and the wider Cloud Native ecosystem, with expertise in **GitOps**, **CI/CD**, and **Infrastructure as Code (IaC)** on **AWS**, **GCP**, and **Azure**.

I'm an experienced Engineer, adept at designing, developing, and maintaining diverse projects, specialising in platform optimisation, ensuring security, and integrating self-service. I can collaborate effectively across multidisciplinary teams, tackling technical challenges and enhancing organizational processes. I'm committed to delivering functional, maintainable, scalable, and observable solutions, and I'm passionate about driving innovation, fostering continuous learning, and promoting team growth.

💼Career

🏢Hergersheimer GmbH

2024 Freelance sysadmin

- Focussing on **Linux** health information systems management and document retrieval, platform documentation, and **Lua** scripting. I'm responsible for the deployments of **OPNSense**, **XCP-ng**, self-hosted **Infisical** and **Cloudflare**.

🏢Adarga

2022/23 Lead Platform Engineer

- Led technical operations for a cutting-edge AI SaaS platform catering to Enterprise and Defense customers, leveraging IaC tools such as **Terragrunt**, **Terraform**, and **Kubernetes**. My leadership ensured seamless, scalable, and secure services across various services and teams.
- Achieved a substantial reduction in monthly cloud expenditures by approximately $100,000 within the first six months. This was accomplished through meticulous infrastructure and code reviews, alongside the implementation of **FinOps** initiatives aimed at enhancing service ownership and accountability within Microservice architecture.
- Pioneered the adoption of opencost.io, integrated with **Prometheus** and **Grafana**, complemented by a suite of other FinOps tools. This initiative significantly improved cloud spend transparency and management, enabling more informed decision-making.
- Championed the implementation of alternative Identity and **SSO** solutions to mitigate the risks associated with PaaS vendor lock-in, fostering a more flexible and secure cloud infrastructure. This strategic move would have enhanced organizational adaptability and security posture.
- Advanced our security and secrets management practices to meet the rigorous demands of our customers, embedding **SecOps** principles directly into our deployment pipelines. Through the adept use of CI/CD tools such as **GitHub Actions**, **CircleCI**, and **ArgoCD**, I have streamlined deployments, ensuring they meet the highest standards of reliability and security compliance.
- Expanded the platform's SSO capabilities by integrating **SAML** and Azure AD, supported by Auth0, enhancing our authentication offerings.

2017/19 DevOps Engineer

- Instrumental in establishing the foundation of a **Kubernetes** SaaS platform using a microservices architecture with Kafka, **Python**, Java, Node.js, and **React** SPAs. Contributed **OAuth2**, **API** management with **Kong**, **nginx**, and collaborated closely with engineering and *data science* teams.

▦ Cookpad

2021 Site Reliability Engineer

- Transitioned to the SRE team, assuming a broader global platform responsibility and collaborating closely with colleagues at Cookpad Japan. Embraced learning **Golang** and leveraged the power of **Jsonnet**.
- Collaborated with SRE team members to enhance documentation, address on-call incidents, lead **Kubernetes** migrations, and fulfill ad hoc support requests. Additionally, contributed to platform stability and automation by utilizing **Helm** and **Ruby** within our infrastructure.

2020 Machine Learning Infrastructure Engineer

- Initially joined the **MLOps** team on a short-term contract, concentrating on Kubernetes observability before transitioning to a permanent role. Focused on deploying **Elastic** and **Prometheus**, **Thanos** for extended metric storage, coupled with **Grafana**, **Loki** to promote ownership of ML applications during deployment.
- Revamped Kubernetes application distribution and deployment methods by utilizing Kustomize and Flux CD. Also evaluated Kubeflow/Argo Pipelines for potential future investment, solidifying our commitment to enhancing ML application deployment processes and promotting machine learning capabilities in the organisation.

▦ Systems Administrator, Torchbox, 2015-2016

- Supporting agency business and customer digital infrastructure including **Drupal** and **Wagtail** deployments.
- Led the relocation of the Bristol office, ensuring a seamless transition. Established a fully operational workspace by Monday morning through deployments of fibre optic, Ubiquiti unifi, VOIP, and MikroTik.
- Explored a **Kubernetes** deployment alongside **Sensu**, **Consul** and **Riemann** to enhance the agency's infrastructure. I also demonstrated my resilience in June 2016, tackling challenges with determination and composure.

▦ Operations Engineer, Future, 2013-2015

- Managed global web properties utilizing CDNs, **nginx**, PHP, **RabbitMQ**, and **Puppet** for infrastructure as code (IaC), with continuous deployment facilitated by `rmq://`.
- Led initiatives for data center and **Xen/XCP** infrastructure consolidation and upgrade. Designed and implemented enhanced storage solutions, incorporating recommended LACP groupings and integrating an advanced storage array for improved reliability and performance.

▯ Drupal DevOps Engineer, Eurostar, 2011-2013

- Lead **DevOps** for the successful relaunch of eurostar.com, utilizing **Drupal** and **ActiveMQ**, collaborating with SNCF. Implemented **CI/CD** pipelines using **Jenkins**, **Puppet**, and **Capistrano**.
- Provided technical guidance, overseeing Global Load Balancing solutions and provided training for Mumbai teams, fostering global collaboration.

▦ Operations Engineer, Sift, 2009-2011: Drupal, CentOS, Xen, VMWare/ESXi

🎓 BA (Hons) Information Systems Analysis at UWE, Bristol, 2009

⚙ Technical Student, CERN, Switzerland, 2007-2008

Linux, PXE, tftpboot, ia64, Perl, XML/RPC & Oracle

🎓 BTEC National Diploma IT Practitioner at Cornwall College, 2005

🖧 CISCO Certified Network Associate, CISCO Academy, 2004

👓 Hobbies include 🐾, 🚴, and 🐧