Resume of Dan Slinky

You can also view this Resume in other formats using my Resume as a Service.

❭_Introduction

As an experienced engineer specializing in Platform, Site Reliability, and DevSecOps Engineering, I've contributed significantly to designing, developing, and maintaining diverse projects. With expertise in container orchestration, I optimize platform performance while ensuring robust security and seamless integration of machine learning models and services. Collaborating effectively with multidisciplinary teams, including engineers, product managers, and stakeholders, I tackle technical challenges and enhance organizational processes. My focus is always on delivering solutions that are not only functional but also easily maintainable, scalable, and observable. Passionate about fostering a culture of continuous learning and knowledge sharing, I drive innovation and promote team growth.

I've had the privilege of witnessing the progression of **Docker**, **Kubernetes**, and the **Cloud Native** landscape. Throughout my career, I've refined my expertise in **GitOps**, Identity and **Single Sign-On (SSO)** integration, and **Infrastructure as Code (IaC)**, working across a diverse range cloud platforms. I embrace innovation and actively explore cutting-edge **open-source** technologies and manage my personal infrastructure using **xcp-ng** and **OPNSense**. My unwavering dedication to excellence and continual learning drives me to deliver top-notch solutions that consistently surpass organizational goals.

💼Career

🏢Adarga

2022-2023 Platform Engineer   As a technical leader in the Platform Engineering and SecOps team, I oversaw operations for a multi-tenanted AI SaaS platform. Utilizing **Terragrunt**, **Terraform**, aws, and other platforms, I ensure robust security and secrets management to meet rigorous customer requirements, facilitating efficient and reliable deployments through **CI/CD** pipelines like **GitHub Actions**, **CircleCI**, and **ArgoCD**. Additionally, I spearhead a significant AWS cost reduction initiative, advocating for FinOps practices and optimizing cloud spending reporting using tools such as **opencost.io**, kubecost, **Prometheus**, and SysDig, fostering service ownership and identifying areas for further optimization. Collaborating on OpenTracing/Telemetry implementation enhances application observability and performance, particularly in environments utilizing **Kafka** and Benthos for message routing. Expanding the **SSO** offering by implementing **SAML** Microsoft AD integration, supported by Auth0, ensures a seamless user experience. I assessed the technical feasibility of Plausible web analytics for platform usage and provide mentorship on implementing Tigergraph and Neo4j for feature development. Furthermore, I oversaw recruitment into the team, conducting interviews, promoting team planning, before transitioning responsibilities to a permanent Engineering Manager and recruitment team.

2017-2019 DevOps Engineer   As the inaugural DevOps at Adarga, I played a pivotal role in establishing the foundation of an AI SaaS platform, collaborating closely with engineering and data science teams while leveraging **Kubernetes**. My responsibilities encompassed both aws and GCloud environments, where I employed Ansible and YAML for deploying self-hosted and Cloud Kubernetes clusters and applications. Embracing a **microservices** architecture, I integrated technologies such as **Kafka**, Python, Java, Node.js, **React** single-page applications (SPAs), and **OAuth2** via Auth0, alongside implementing the platform API gateway using Kong/nginx and exploring service mesh options like **Istio** and Weave. Moreover, I managed onboarding processes utilizing Apple MDM, fleet DM, **osquery**, and Munki, overseeing app packaging and deployment, while also deploying and maintaining the Atlassian stack, including **Jira**, Confluence, and Bamboo.

🏢Cookpad

2021 Site Reliability Engineer   I moved in to the SRE team, taking on a more Global platform responsibility working closely with colleagues at Cookpad Japan. I embraced learning **Golang** and discovered the power of **Jsonnet** in this new role. I collaborated with colleagues in the SRE team to improve documentation, respond to on call incidents, lead migrations to Kubernetes, and responded to ad hoc support requests.

2020 Machine Learning Infrastructure Engineer   Starting with the MLOps team on a short-term contract, I initially concentrated on Kubernetes observability before transitioning to a permanent role focused on Kubernetes ML application deployment. I deployed Elastic and Prometheus/Thanos for extended metric storage, coupled with Grafana/Loki to promote ownership of ML applications during deployment. Furthermore, I revamped Kubernetes application distribution and deployment by utilizing Kustomize and Flux CD, while also evaluating Kubeflow/Argo Pipelines for potential future investment.

Torchbox

2015-2016 Systems Administrator   As part of a digital agency supporting Charity and NGO clients with platforms like Wagtail and Drupal, I spearheaded the relocation of the Bristol office, ensuring a seamless transition with deployments of Fibre, Ubiquiti, and MikroTik to establish a fully operational workspace by Monday morning. Alongside, I delved into Kubernetes, deploying Sensu and Riemann, among other technologies, to bolster the agency's infrastructure. Additionally, I tested my resilience in June 2016, facing challenges head-on with a stiff upper lip.

Future

2013-2015 Operations Engineer   I worked as a key figure in a print and digital publishing company specializing in consumer hobbies and interests, managing global web properties utilizing CDN, nginx, PHP, RabbitMQ, and Puppet for infrastructure as code (IaC), with continuous deployment facilitated by `rmq://`. Additionally, I led initiatives for data center and Xen/XCP infrastructure consolidation and upgrade, collaborating on Sensu observability implementation. Moreover, I designed and implemented enhanced storage solutions, incorporating recommended LACP groupings and integrating an advanced storage array for improved reliability and performance.

Eurostar

2011-2013 Drupal DevOps Engineer   As a Drupal DevOps Engineer specializing in enterprise digital transformation initiatives, I led the successful relaunch of eurostar.com utilizing Drupal and ActiveMQ, collaborating closely with technical partner SNCF. I implemented CI/CD deployment pipelines using Jenkins, Puppet, and Capistrano to streamline development processes. Additionally, I provided technical guidance and oversaw the implementation of Global Load Balancing solutions using Stingray/ZXTM/Zeus technology. Furthermore, I conducted training sessions for offshore teams in Mumbai, India, ensuring knowledge transfer and fostering collaboration across global teams.

Capgemini

2011-2013 DevOps Engineer   I offered Enterprise DevOps capabilities to esteemed clients including Royal Mail, Burberry, and Michael Page, overseeing deployments on both AWS and Rackspace platforms. Notably, I spearheaded the relaunch of eurostar.com using Drupal, ensuring a seamless transition and optimized performance for the website.

Sift

2009-2011 Operations Engineer   Supporting Drupal 5/6 and WordPress LAMP+, both on-premise and in cloud with VMWare/ESXi Cloud and XEN co-location setups.

CERN

2007-2008 Technical Student   During my tenure at **IT/FIO/LA** 🐧, I collaborated on developing innovative Linux PXE/kickstart installation software under the guidance of J. Polok. Additionally, I contributed to the AIMS2 project, utilizing </>Perl, XML/RPC, and Oracle technologies. Further details about AIMS2 and its ongoing relevance can be found on the twiki, including a final presentation to the IT Department, with some components still in use as of 2024. Volunteering at the 2008 CERN Open Doors event, I provided guided tours of the CERN Computing Centre, enthusiastically sharing insights into CERN's IT infrastructure. Moreover, I played a role in CERN's efforts to lobby the British Government to support the Technical Student programme, as documented in this publication.

Education

- 2009 BA (Hons) Information Systems Analysis at UWE, Bristol
- 2005 BTEC National Diploma IT Practitioner at Cornwall College

Personal Interests

- I enjoy 🚴and have Alpe d'Huez, Col de Braus and Col du Turini on my Strava.
- Blue Peter Badge (Standard Issue), issued circa 1996.
- I enjoy digital art, and learning how to use my Pencil.
- I have a perclusion for metal springs and steps.
- I enjoy reading Douglas Coupland.
- Browser Wars veteran
- 🐧and open source advocate.

Endorsements

Read more testimonials and endorsements on in or .

> Dan is one of the best platform engineers I've worked with. He has a vast knowledge of AWS, Kubernetes, Terraform and similar platform technologies. I learned a lot while working together. He is capable of taking a vague requirement and converting it into working infrastructure. He puts thought into the maintainability, scalability and observability of his solutions and writes good accompanying documentation. Dan is also a good mentor helping other in the team and even outside of his team upskill and learn from him.
>
> – Robert Marsal, Enterprise Architect at Adarga

> Dan is one of the most technical platform engineers I've worked with. I would watch in awe as he calmly debugged and resolved production incidents. Day to day he is a thoughtful colleague whose advice I would trust on the design and implementation of cloud native infrastructure and the general practice of platform engineering.
>
> – Mark deVilliers, Engineering Leader