

Resume

Dan Slinky

Platform Engineer | SRE | DevSecOps | MLOps | FinOps | Sysadmin

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Introduction

I'm an experienced and knowledgeable Platform, Site Reliability, and DevSecOps Engineer. In my previous roles I have contributed to the design, development, and maintenance, and leveraged my skills in container orchestration to ensure high availability, performance, and security of the platform, as well as to enable the deployment and integration of machine learning models and services.

I also collaborated with other engineers, product managers, and stakeholders to identify and resolve technical issues, improve processes, and deliver value to the users and the organisation. I prioritise maintainability, scalability, and observability, ensuring that my solutions are not only functional but also well-documented, and I like to foster a culture of continuous learning, skill development and knowledge sharing.

Experience

I've had the privilege of witnessing the evolution of 🐳 Docker, 🌐 Kubernetes and the 🏠 **Cloud Native** landscape. Through this journey, I've honed expertise in GitOps, Identity and Single Sign-On (SSO) implementation, and Infrastructure as Code (IaC), spanning both on-premises and cloud deployments.

DevOps experience with 🍌 Amazon Web Services, 🍌 Google Cloud Platform, 🍌 Microsoft Azure, 🍌 Alibaba, 🍌 DigitalOcean,

Innovative **GitOps** and **CI/CD** using 🍌 GitHub Actions, 🍌 GitLab, 🍌 CircleCI, 🍌 Flux, 🍌 Argo, and 🍌 Jenkins

Skilled with **IaC** tools including 🍌 Terraform, Terragrunt, 🍌 Ansible, and container orchestration using 🐳 Docker and 🌐 Kubernetes.

Sometimes a friendly neighbourhood 🍌 SecOps using 🍌 h1 🍌 because sometimes 🍌 🍌 🍌 hello, friend 🍌 favs

I enjoy using bleeding edge 🍌 Open Source and my 🍌 OPNSense to build my personal infrastructure.

🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 Browser Wars
🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 🍌 and 🍌 friends.

Career

I've accumulated experience across various organisations and businesses, which you can delve into through the tabs below. Additionally, you'll find endorsements from recent colleagues available for your review.

CERNSiftCapgeminiEurostarFutureTorchboxAdarga.1CookpadAdarga.2

Technical Student

2007-2008

- I joined **IT/FIO/LA** and developed new Linux PXE/kickstart installation software under the supervision of J. Polok
- AIMS2 made use of Perl, XML/RPC and Oracle. You can read more on [twiki](#), which also includes a final presentation to the IT Department. I'm reliably informed that some parts of it are still in production in 2024 :/

- I [volunteered](#) at 2008 CERN Open Doors, giving guided tours of the CERN Computing Centre and enjoyed sharing my passion for CERN's IT infrastructure.
- I helped CERN [lobby](#) the British Government to help promote the Technical Student programme.

Operations Engineer

2009-2011

- Supported Drupal and WordPress installations on premise and in the Cloud
- Proficient in VMWare/ESXi Cloud and XEN co-location environments
- Experienced with Drupal 5/6, LAMP stacks, CentOS, Jenkins and DevOps practices
- Supporting self-hosted MySQL cluster using [MySQL](#).

DevOps Engineer

2011-2013

- Providing Enterprise DevOps capabilities to Royal Mail, Burberry and Michael Page.
- Deploying solutions on AWS and Rackspace.
- Relaunching eurostar.com on Drupal

Drupal DevOps Engineer

2012-2013

- Drupal DevOps Engineer working on Enterprise digital transformation projects.
- Relaunched eurostar.com using Drupal and ActiveMQ, and working closely with technical partner SNCF. CI/CD deployment using Jenkins, Puppet & Capistrano.
- Technical guidance and implementation of Global Load Balancing using Stingray/ZXTM/Zeus.
- Training offshore teams in Mumbai, India

Operations Engineer

2013-2015

- Print and Digital Publisher focussed on Consumer hobbies and interests.
- Operating Global Web properties for consumer media publisher, roles involved CDN, nginx, PHP, RabbitMQ and IaC using Puppet, with CD capabilities provided by [AWS](#).
- Lead on Data Centre and Xen/XCP infrastructure consolidation and upgrade, and collaborated on Sensu observability .
- Designed and deployed more robust storage, with recommend LACP groupings and an expensive Storage array.

Systems Administrator

2015-2016

Digital Agency supporting Charity and NGO

- Wagtail and Drupal.
- Took ownership of the Bristol office move, deploying Fibre, Ubiquiti and Mikrotek to provide a working new office on Monday morning.
- Discovered and explored Kubernetes, whilst deploying Sensu and Riemann and other technologies to support the agency.
- Tested my stiff upper lip in June 2016.

DevOps Engineer

2017-2019

Inaugural DevOps at Adarga, I played a role in establishing the foundation of an AI SaaS platform, leveraging Kubernetes and collaborating closely with the wider engineering and data science teams.

- My responsibilities spanned AWS and Google Cloud environments, where I implemented Ansible and YAML for deploying self-hosted and Google Kubernetes clusters and applications.
- Adopting a microservice's architecture, I integrated technologies such as Kafka, Python, Java, Node.js, single-page applications (SPAs), and OAuth2 via Auth0, while also implementing the platform API gateway using Kong/nginx, and explored service mesh options such as Istio and Weave.
- Additionally, I managed onboarding processes using Apple MDM, Fleet DM, Osquery, Munki, and handled app packaging and deployment, I deployed and maintained the Atlassian stack, including Jira, Confluence, and Bamboo, on AWS.

Machine Learning Infrastructure Engineer

2020

- I began my journey with the MLOps team on a short term contract, initially focusing on Kubernetes observability, and then joined on a permanent basis focussing on Kubernetes ML application deployment.
- I deployed Elastic and Prometheus/Thanos for longer duration metric storage, alongside Grafana/Loki to help foster ownership of ML applications as they were deployed.
- I revitalized the Kubernetes application distribution and deployment by making use of Kustomize and Flux CD, while evaluating Kubeflow/Argo Pipelines for potential future investment.

Site Reliability Engineer

2021

I later 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, migrate Kafka from the Managed Cloud to team managed Kubernetes, and respond to ad hoc support requests.

Platform Engineer

2022-2023

Technical leadership in the Platform Engineering and SecOps team, operating a multi-tenanted AI SaaS platform on AWS.

- Utilised Terragrunt, Terraform, AWS and other platforms ensuring robust security and secrets management to meet stringent customer requirements. Leveraging credential storage, scanning and code-quality practices, and using CI/CD pipelines through GitHub Actions, CircleCI, and ArgoCD, I helped deliver efficient and reliable deployments.
- Lead a significant AWS cost reduction initiative and championed FinOps practices. I worked on optimising reporting on cloud spending using tools like opencost.io, kubecost, Prometheus, and SysDig to help foster more ownership and accountability of individual services, and to identify areas for further optimisation.
- I collaborated on the implementation of OpenTracing/Telemetry, bolstering application observability and performance in environments using Kafka and Benthos for message routing.
- I am responsible for expanding the SSO offering by implementing SAML Microsoft AD integration, supported by Auth0 enable the customer to have a seamless user experience.
- I undertook a technical feasibility of Plausible web analytics for usage in the platform, and mentored team members working on the implementation of Tigergraph and Neo4j as part of some feature development.
- I also had responsibility for recruitment in to the team, conducting Interviews, promoting team planning before handing over to a permanent Engineering Manager and recruitment team.

Education

Degree	Diploma
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BA (Hons) Information Systems Analysis

2005-2009 University of the West of England, Bristol

BTEC National Diploma IT Practitioner

Personal Interests

- I enjoy road 🚲 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 Apple Pencil.
- I have a perclulsion for metal springs and steps.
- I enjoy reading Douglas Coupland.

Endorsements

[Letters of Recommendation](#) and [Endorsements](#) for Dan Slinky can be submitted using GitHub or LinkedIn.

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*