Resume

Dan Slinky

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

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Introduction

As an experienced engineer with specializations in Platform, Site Reliability, and DevSecOps, I have played a pivotal role in designing, developing, and maintaining various projects. My expertise in container orchestration has enabled me to optimize platform performance, ensuring robust security and seamless integration of machine learning models and services.

I am a collaborative team player and have effectively collaborated with diverse teams, including engineers, product managers, and stakeholders, to overcome technical challenges and enhance organizational processes. My priority is always to ensure that solutions are not only functional but also easily maintainable, scalable, and observable. I am also passionate about creating a culture of continuous learning and knowledge sharing to drive innovation and promote team growth.

Experience

I've had the privilege of witnessing the evolution of :simple-docker: Docker, :simple-kubernetes: Kubernetes and the :simple-cncf: **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, :fontawesome-brands-microsoft: **Microsoft** Azure, :simple-alibabadotcom: **Alibaba**, :fontawesome-brands-digital-ocean: **DigitalOcean**,

- Innovative **GitOps** and **CI/CD** using **GitHub Actions**, :fontawesome-brands-gitlab: **GitLab**, :simple-circleci: **CircleCI**, :simple-flux: **Flux**, :simple-argo: **Argo**, and :fontawesome-brands-jenkins: **Jenkins**

- Skilled with **IaC** tools including :simple-terraform: **Terraform**, **Terragrunt**, :simple-ansible: **Ansible**, and container orchestration using :fontawesome-brands-docker: **Docker** and :simple-kubernetes: **Kubernetes**.

- Sometimes a friendly neighbourhood :material-security: **SecOps** using :simple-hackerone: :safety_vest: :fire_extinguisher: because sometimes :fire: :material-server: :cloud_lightning: :space_invader: hello, friend :fontawesome-brands-square-hacker-news: favs

- I enjoy using bleeding edge :simple-opensourceinitiative: **Open Source** and my :simple-opnsense: **OPNSense** to build my personal infrastructure.

- :fontawesome-brands-internet-explorer: :simple-firefox: :simple-googlechrome: :simple-safari: :fontawesome-brands-brave: :simple-torbrowser: **Browser Wars** :simple-linux: :simple-asahilinux: :simple-archlinux: :simple-alpinelinux: :simple-debian: :simple-fedora: :simple-ubuntu: :simple-macos: and :simple-opensourceinitiative: 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.

=== "CERN"

Technical Student
2007-2008
- I joined __IT/FIO/LA__ and developed new Linux PXE/kickstart installation software under t
- AIMS2 made use of Perl, XML/RPC and Oracle. You can read more on [twiki](https://twiki.cel
- I [volunteered](/blog/xxxx) at 2008 CERN Open Doors, giving guided tours of the CERN Compu
- I helped CERN [lobby](https://cds.cern.ch/record/1120956?ln=en) the British Government to

=== "Sift"

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 `drdb`.

=== "Capgemini"

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

=== "Eurostar"

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 part
- Technical guidance and implementation of Global Load Balancing using Stingray/ZXTM/Zeus.
- Training offshore teams in Mumbai, India

=== "Future"

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, P
- Lead on Data Centre and Xen/XCP infrastructure consolidation and upgrade, and collaborated
- Designed and deployed more robust storage, with recommend LACP groupings and an expensive

=== "Torchbox"

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 provi
- Discovered and explored Kubernetes, whilst deploying Sensu and Riemann and other technolig
- Tested my stiff upper lip in June 2016.

=== "Adarga.1"

DevOps Engineer
2017-2019

Inaugural DevOps at Adarga, I played a role in establishing the foundation of an AI SaaS pla

- My responsibilities spanned AWS and Google Cloud environments, where I implemented Ansible

- Adopting a microservice's architecture, I integrated technologies such as Kafka, Python, J

- Additionally, I managed onboarding processes using Apple MDM, fleet DM, osquery, munki, ar

=== "Cookpad"

Machine Learning Infrastructure Engineer
2020

- I began my journey with the MLOps team on a short term contract, initially focusing on Kub
- I deployed Elastic and Prometheus/Thanos for longer duration metric storage, alongside Gra

- I revitalized the Kubernetes application distribution and deployment by making use of Kust

Site Reliability Engineer
2021

I later moved in to the SRE team, taking on a more Global platform responsibility working cl

=== "Adarga.2"

Platform Engineer
2022-2023

Technical leadership in the Platform Engineering and SecOps team, operating a multi-tenanted

- Utilised Terragrunt, Terraform, AWS and other platforms ensuring robust security and secre
- Lead a significant AWS cost reduction initiative and championed FinOps practices. I worked
- I collaborated on the implementation of OpenTracing/Telemetry, bolstering application obse
- I am responsible for expanding the SSO offering by implementing SAML Microsoft AD integrat
- I undertook a technical feasibility of Plausible web analytics for usage in the platform,
- I also had responsibility for recruitment in to the team, conducting Interviews, promoting

Education

=== "Degree"

BA (Hons) Information Systems Analysis

2005-2009
University of the West of England, Bristol

=== "Diploma"

BTEC National Diploma IT Practitioner

2003-2005
Cornwall College

Personal Interests

- I enjoy road :material-bike: 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 perclusion 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