

# Declan Morris

declanmorris.com

## Personal Statement

I am a IT Cloud Infrastructure Engineer with a passion for learning both at work and in my personal time. I have a background in chemistry as a University of York chemistry graduate (MChem – 2.1). As a self educated developer I have taught myself the industry and know how important autodidacticism is to an industry which is this fast paced with new technologies and changing ways of working.

## Work Experience

### Drax Group

*IT Cloud Infrastructure Engineer*

**Selby, England**

*2022 – Present*

- Created CI/CD pipeline templates for developers to consume to deploy to kubernetes
- Use packer and ansible to standardise linux builds
- Created terraform code to uplift previously manual AWS VM upgrades into a one click pipeline

### Drax Group

*Software Engineer*

**Selby, England**

*2019 – 2022*

- Wrote, deployed, configured and maintained many mircoservices key to business continuity. Ensured all were written following best practices.
- Wrote and deployed an Azure function API and all associated cloud artifacts via terraform IAC including PAAS MSSQL, VNET, linux VM configured with ansible
- Upgraded plant metering system and all dependant services, databases, and queries. Ensured system was resilient to pull data every minute 24/7/365
- Created API's to securely integrate external services securely with HR data
- Wrote CI/CD pipelines as standard for every project and led the team into adoption of YAML CD pipelines

### StarCompliance

*Software Developer*

**York, England**

*2018 – 2019*

- Used Powershell to automate the broker release process saving a week for every broker feed release
- Fixed large numbers of C# and MS SQL server bugs
- Created SSIS packages to integrate broker dealer data into the Star product
- Analysed and tracked down SQL performance issues using pro filer, optimised SQL utilising management studio execution plans and by evaluating sql generation code
- Made improvements to the Star software deploy scripts that are used by every developer at Star to deploy and update sites on our servers
- Created a deployment tool for deploying hotfixes to every Star hosted site 200+ and upgrade them to the latest version, bringing clients critical security, performance and business logic changes. This saved our internal teams over 90 hours a month and I was nominated and awarded an internal award for the initiative to do this work.
- Found several critical software vulnerabilities in the Star application and patched these accordingly.
- Addressed vulnerabilities raised in penetration test reports and used Kali Linux and it's tool to assess software vulnerabilities
- Worked with our QA to ensure functionality was correctly tested and the test scenarios were accurate

### StarCompliance

*Business Analyst*

**York, England**

*2016 – 2018*

Managed product enhancements to ensure that features are prioritised and achievable within product sprints. Created a new workflow which involved meeting with chief business officers to get an understanding of their needs. A Perl script I wrote would automatically scan over all product backlog enhancements (~ 800) and based on a criteria set assign each a score so that the chief business officers could look over only the top items identified. I designed, documented and delivered software specifications including detailed requirements and state diagrams. I collaborated with developers, quality assurance, and client teams to gather research and functionality requirements. I assisted the technical project manager in the transition from Waterfall to a more agile development methodology.

**Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences***PhD Candidate***Beijing, China***2014 – 2015*

Lived and studied in Beijing for just over one year. Explored a variety anti-icing techniques with a focus on graphene and its derivatives being used to affect ice growth in solution. Studying in China also gave me the opportunity study Chinese in my free time, I thus reached a conversational level. I decided to leave for personal reasons, however it was still a valuable experience that allowed me to improve my scientific and language skills.

**DSM***Intern Associate Scientist***Geleen, The Netherlands***2013 – 2014*

As an MChem student I decided to undertake a placement year in industry at DSM. The project was to develop a kinetic model for the decomposition of cyclohexyl hydroperoxide. This placement gave me valuable experience in working within the chemical industry and prepared me for further work in a similar setting.

## Personal Projects

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**Personal Website:** I have my own personal site for putting out articles on things I've found interesting. The whole deployment is IAC and the site gets updated on pushes to main.

- Deployment of the infrastructure using [terraform](#) for the vm deployment, dns
- Configuration of webserver using [ansible](#)
- [Website coded](#) using hugo and markdown for creating personal blog

**Perl Webscraper:** Wrote a basic web scraper to spider across a website and download key information and stored it in a MySQL database.

**Proxmox Home Server:** I have a custom built home server running Proxmox as a hypervisor. I follow IAC for this and the LXC containers and any VM's running on the server are created via terraform. All software and configuration is deployed and managed via ansible. I open source all of this code in my personal infrastructure repo which can be found [here](#).

**Hospital Bedlam Game:** A group of friends and I joined global game jam to build a basic JS puzzle game.

## Education

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**Department of Chemistry, The University of York***Master of Chemistry with a Year in Industry, 2:1 Honours Degree***York, England***2010 – 2014***Cardinal Newman College****Preston, England***2008 – 2010***A Level**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Chemistry | A |
| Maths     | A |
| Biology   | B |

**As Level**

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Computing       | C |
| General Studies | C |

## Languages

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**English:** Fluent*Mother tongue***Mandarin Chinese:** Conversational*HSK 5 Certification completed in 2017***Terraform:** Intermediate**Ansible:** Intermediate**Python:** Basic**Packer:** Basic

## References

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References are available on request