

Curriculum Vitae

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PROFILE

I am an experienced Senior Solutions Architect and Strategic DevOps Engineer with strong experience working to DevOps principles. I have a proven automation and scripting ability, including Linux Administration, Storage Technologies, Network Devices and Databases, and strong scripting abilities in Bash, with Python, Ruby and some Perl experience I have good experience of integrating software application builds with automated deployment solutions. Interfacing with third party products using their API's or their underlying Databases and building user driven solutions. I have good experience of designing and implementing all aspects of Automation, providing training and encouraging use of DevOps/Agile principles within groups.

I am able to communicate effectively with stake holders at every level of the business and recognise both the business as well as the technical interests of the company.

I have solid design and engineering skills in the cloud space, including but not limited to, AWS, Azure, Google Compute, Rackspace, Skyscape among others. I also work with many virtualising technologies, including Docker, VMware/VMware Workstation, KVM, XEN and Hyper-V.

I have used extensively automations tools/devops toolset such as, Ansible, Puppet, Vagrant, Terraform, Salt, Chef, GoCD, Jenkins and Rundeck

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

February 2019 – Present Day

NHS Digital - BJSS

DevOps Consultant

Working on various projects I have been helping to define the technologies and strategies of the Digital Data Products teams.

The customer was adopting technologies like Kubernetes in Azure Cloud, and Fargate in AWS. I introduced them to technologies such as Openshift and Rancher for proprietary environments

I have also Dockerised several projects taken from Window Servers, to Linux using Docker, running on propriety cloud solutions in AWS and Azure, and also on such platforms such as Rancher and Openshift, and assisted the Dev teams in building pipelines that utilise Docker and Kubernetes/Rancher.

I have helped migrate Oracle Databases from Windows and Solaris over to Linux as part of my duties.

I designed, planned and built all the recommended solutions myself before presenting them to the other teams and management.

I created new environments, showcasing Gitlab CI, Ansible and Terraform to help spring Dev environments.

November 2017 – December 2018

HMRC

Senior DevOps Consultant & DevOps Strategy Team Lead

As part of a Green Fields' Project I led the strategy team to form the building blocks of the automation, build, deploy and test of servers, applications and environments, both mutable and immutable.

HMRC had no clear direction on how to position themselves in order to gain full advantages of what could be achieved using the DevOps philosophy.

I introduced them to technologies like Ansible, GoCD, Ansible Tower, Rundeck, Spacewalk/Katello, RedHat Identity Manager & Jenkins. We also used Terraform, GitLabs, AWS, V-Realize and Puppet.

I architected their solutions design and documented a strategic adaptation of the devised tool-sets and methodologies in order to gain maximum benefits from all the technologies and worked with the architects to document the designs. I created Proof of Concepts and presented to other teams, management and directors in order to obtain the best traction moving forward.

We created the standards to work from and documented all our plans in order to maintain visibility across departments for our project.

We created the building blocks for automating application and environments on demand with test beds in place, the concept was to allow other teams to pick the pieces they required, add some application specific configuration and be able to quickly use our framework to deploy their own applications to both Amazon Cloud and internal platforms based on vsphere.

March 2017 – October 2017

Deloitte Digital

Senior I&E DevOps Consultant

Deloitte Digital is a worldwide digital transformation company, specialising in managing clients technological platforms such as E-Commerce.

I was brought on to manage the DevOps space of a well known American/European retailer. Architecting the environment design and designing the DevOps space. Working primarily with Ansible and Jenkins, deploying to multiple environments hosted in the cloud, using technologies such as Hybris, Solr, Apache, MySQL, Docker, GoCD and Redhat 6/7.

My role here involved me rewriting all the previous methods of deploying the aforementioned technologies in a manner more in line with the DevOps principles, allowing for continuous deployments without impacting uptime or minimising downtime to a minimum.

I rewrote the ansible playbooks and roles to be able to deploy software and configurations in a rolling manner, whilst interacting with load balancers and monitoring services to ensure that disruption was kept to a minimum. I also rewrote all the Jenkins based jobs to provide a more dynamic interface with the jobs to ensure that human error was kept to a minimum. The end client has since had a successful go-live on this project.

April 2016 – March 2017

Hermes

Senior DevOps Consultant

Hermes is one of Europe's leading logistics company, with a large development team in the UK. Previously all their work was handed over to their IT Team located in Germany for deployment and management, but this has not been ideal for the UK based teams

Hermes has been doing Agile development for a while, and wanted to expand this by looking to add continuous deployments as well, they were limited in their ability to attempt this as they only had limited access to the systems, and rules governing their use that they were sure were detrimental to the CD process, as a result they wanted to see what they could do with cloud technologies.

In this role I tidied up their current development tools, moving all of them from Windows Server to CentOS. I improved their use of Jenkins, and integrated authentication using OAuth. I moved them from existing tools like GitLab and SVN over to an internally hosted GitLab server, and build new Sonar and Nexus instances. I separated out all the services previously running on one physical server into the virtual world, and in the process stabilising their development environment.

I provided the architecture design of their new environments and placement of technologies within it. I also documented how each team would feed into the DevOps pipelines and ownership thereof.

I created many test environments using various technologies for them to sample within AWS using Ansible. Before finally settling on GOCD for the pipeline tool set, Jenkins for the build tools, Sonar for code tests, Nexus as the artifact repository, and introducing them to new ways of deploying application, such as having them create Springboot applications instead of war files.

I successfully demonstrated how well micro-services could be deployed, scaled and updated using Kubernetes and Ansible.

I designed flexible and repeatable pipelines, using GOCD and automating with Ansible play-books ensuring consistent and traceable code deployments.

Deployments could be to either Docker containers, legacy environments with restricted access, or to AWS, or a mixture of all three, so the play-books were written to detect capabilities, and where third party software was required, it was custom compiled and packaged to ensure consistency across environment.

I have also continued to support the developers throughout my time here to ensure that their requirements are well represented and to ensure that this process will remain committed too

This work has been handed over to a newly created team to continue.

November 2015 – April 2016
S.I.S – Satellite Information Systems
DevOps Consultant

S.I.S develop live streaming services to the gambling industry, and in order to keep pace with current demand need to introduce a more agile way of development and on demand server deployments and applications lifecycle management.

SIS has no previous automation in place, although their developers had started to introduce agile methodologies, Git and Jenkins to their processes.

In this role I used technologies such as Apache, Tomcat, Java, Fog, Solarwinds, Ansible, Puppet, Bind, FreeIPA, Katello, Docker, Vagrant, Kubernetes, Atlassian BitBucket, Jira and Confluence

I created a work-flow for them based on Ansible (using dynamic inventories stored in mysql), FOG.io (to interface with their ESXi infrastructure), Rundeck (to provide a self service portal) and worked on Kubernetes to show how software deployments could be done with docker (which was requested by their development teams), and used RedHat Katello for subscription Management. I interfaced with their legacy monitoring systems and Solarwinds IPAM database (via Microsoft SQL), and with sharepoint.com for change management. In all a work-flow was created, that could deploy a server into an environment (both Docker environments and Physical), join it to AD, configure the base OS dependent on the environment and install and configure any software packages that were required, before handing over to F5 Big IP devices, creating pools and adding the newly created application servers as members. This work has been handed to a junior devops engineer who I have been training to maintain the environment

July 2015 - October 2015

Devopsguys - Defra - Rural Payments Agency

Senior DevOps Specialist

I returned to Defra to support the deployments of applications into the environments, and help diagnose and resolve issues with web and java applications, liaising with third parties and developers as needed. Continuing to work in an agile manner, and maintaining both git and the Team-City server. As there has been some changes to the way the client wanted to use the pipeline, I have instigated the redesign of how we integrate with Puppet, Ansible, Hierarchical, git branching strategies and Team-City to make the work process faster and more efficient to conform better to the requirements of the client.

In this role I used technologies such as Ansible, Puppet, Nginx, Java, Tomcat, TeamCity, Atlassian Bamboo, Jira and Confluence amongst others, and was working with cloud technologies, such as Skyscape, Rackspace and Amazon.

February 2015 – July 2015

Kainos - Department for Work and Pensions

DevOps Specialist

I am responsible for designing the automated deployments for both servers and java code. Working with git, Jenkins, Puppet and Ansible and Fabric to automate existing code and develop a workflow for developers and system engineers to work with.

As part of my role, I am responsible for the following:.

Writing Jenkins jobs, to pick up code from git and trigger deployments.

Automating environments using Vcloud api's.

Creating ansible and puppet code to automate server creation and deployment of code

In this role I used technologies such as Ansible, Puppet, Nginx, Java, Tomcat, Jenkins, TeamCity, Atlassian Bamboo, Jira and Confluence amongst others, and was working with cloud technologies, such as Skyscape, and Amazon. I also looked at Kubernetes as a delivery platform for our docker containers

September 2014 - February 2015

Devopsguys - Defra - Rural Payments Agency

DevOps Specialist

I am responsible to help migrate the Rural Payments Agency systems to work in a agile manner, with automated deployments for both servers and code. Working with git, Teamcity/Jenkins, Puppet, Ansible and Fabric to automate existing code and develop a workflow for developers and system engineers to work with.

As part of my role, I am responsible for the following:

Moving 3rd party software to into rpms, and writing puppet code to deploy them automatically onto servers.

Writing team city jobs, to pick up code from git and trigger deployments.

Automating environments using vmware api's in the cloud.

Working with cloud technologies, such as Skyscape, Rackspace and Amazon.

In this role I used technologies such as Ansible, Puppet, Nginx, Java, Tomcat, TeamCity, Atlassian Bamboo, Jira and Confluence amongst others

April 2012 - September 2014

William Hill Plc

Infrastructure Operations/ DevOps Specialist

I am responsible for the design, availability and integrity of William Hill's mission critical business infrastructure and applications environment consisting of over 2000+ RedHat servers, 20+ HP-UX servers and over 280 Windows servers. I support the internal applications running a mix of LAMP, Java, Oracle DB, Squid, IIS, Tomcat, Springsource and many more custom and proprietary applications.

I am also responsible for the following:

Managing and maintaining Application Delivery platforms (DNS,SFTP,SMTP etc, Apache/IIS and Java application platforms)

Good practical knowledge of Jenkins, mainly through integrating java application builds with automated deployment solutions for use as an application life cycle product

Scripting in bash to a high level, writing small applications in Python, I am able to diagnose Ruby and Perl code and fix issues within that code.

The implementation of Automation and better patch management using products like Satellite/Katello/WSUS/SCCM and Rundeck

Designing a Zero Downtime Patching project, which allowed a One button press patching of the entire environment, automating server patching, rebooting, application stop/starts, load balancer pools, cluster fail over and Riverbed Stingray control.

Creating Clustering Standards documentation and helped update all clusters to follow the recommendations within.

As part of my role I also run regular training courses for other members of staff and provide 3rd line support for the Linux LAMP estate, Xenapp/XenDesktop Environments and Oracle DBAs. Including server profiling and tuning recommendations for Java/Tomcat, Apache, Linux, and EMC storage.

Feb 2008 –April 2012

Keytech Managed Services

Senior Linux/Unix Administrator (Professional Services Consultant)

Keytech is a service management company, where I have full responsibility for over 180 Unix/Linux Servers, including, Solaris Clusters, Linux, AIX and SCO boxes. My Professional Services role saw me consulting with companies around HA/Clustering, Automation/Puppet and resilient solutions for Government and Private sector organisations. This was primarily an architectural role, comprising the design, resource planning and delivery of projects.

I was responsible for the following:

3rd line Support for over 60 Checkpoint Firewalls and occasional support for Cisco PIX firewalls and VPN concentrators.

Enhancing their current monitoring solutions in Unix/Linux using SNMP and syslog in shell scripts.

Enhancing Tivoli Reporting by using Linux to read incoming emails, log calls within our AHD and update a MySQL database. Since then I have added a Web front end to provide statistics for service reviews with customers.

Aided the the team with the Windows 2003, 2000 and 2008 server environments, including Active Directory, Exchange, Arc Serve and TSM and Novell Servers, including Groupwise

Working with many projects including LDAP, VMWare Virtualisation, SANs, Solaris Zones, Veritas Cluster, HyperV Virtualisation, and have worked both in R&D, deployment and customer facing scenarios.

Holding training sessions with both customers and internal staff in order to improve their understanding of key technology's like Linux Admin, Cluster Management, Backups and Virtualisation.

IT Consultant

April 2005 –Feb 2008

Since leaving TechnoPhobia I worked freelance throughout the UK. I have been involved in projects such as Web Design and Hosting Systems. Server Design and Maintenance and Project Management and fulfilment.

I have worked with intensively with many technologies including Apache, Citrix, Cisco, Checkpoint, Samba, Tivoli Storage Manager, SIP Telephony, Microsoft Server & Desktop, TCP/IP. Including the setting up of firewalls, databases, web servers, Active Directory, server clusters, server monitoring, SANS, backup and DR solutions.

I have continued to expand on my Unix skill set including Redhat Enterprise, Suse, Fedora, Debian, Solaris and some AIX.

April 2004 – April 2005

TechnoPhobia Ltd – IT Systems Manager

TechnoPhobia is a market leading e-business and online communications company with clients such as The Co-operative Bank, Vernon Pools, Greenflag Breakdown, BT and Welcome Break. My job saw me managing the

day to day activities of a small but well-ordered IT department, with focus on both internal systems and public facing systems.

I was responsible for the following:

Supporting Linux & Microsoft technologies, I supported IIS, Microsoft SQL, My-SQL, Oracle, Apache, Bind, Web Trends, IBM Tivoli, Sendmail, Q-Mail, Exchange, E-Fax and Cold Fusion.

Maintaining and implementing firewalls by Cisco PIX, Checkpoint, IPTables, Linksys and Netgear.

Creating a server monitoring system that covers all the major operating systems. A first alert system that combines automated text messages with automated phone calls advising support staff of failures. An emergency beacon system to alert us if we ever we lost our internet connectivity for our core services.

Implemented/tested/configured various VOIP solutions, including SIP and Cisco Unified Communications Server.

Implementing a DR solution which has been both documented and tested both onsite and offsite. I have also played a major role in preparing for the company's ISO9001 Certification.

Extensively using VMWare Technology in the testing of new projects.

January 2003 – April 2004

Cattles Invoice Finance – Senior Technical Support Analyst.

As the only Senior Technical support analyst at Cattle's Invoice Finance I managed the technical support needs of the Corporate Division (over 5 sites). Looking at the Windows 2000/2000 Server/XP/XP Server environment and the UNIX (IBM AS400, IBM AIX, SCO, Sun and Linux,) environment. I managed the technical support team ensuring SLA was adhered to. In my role here I created a new network and converted the existing system core from Novell to Windows.

February 2001- August 2002.

Manheim Auctions – Senior Unix Systems Administrator.

Working at Manheim Auctions, I was the Senior Unix Systems Administrator, supporting over 30 servers operating a combination of Sun Solaris 7, Sun Solaris 8, Sco Openserver 5.0.5 and Redhat Linux 7.1. I also supported the Wide and Local area networks which covered over 18 towns/cities.

I was responsible for the Technical Team (Team Leader) and managed their job responsibilities, ensuring the department acted at all times like a united team. I was responsible for ensuring that calls were monitored and delegated to the correct member, and ensured the smooth operation of the technical team and their integration with other teams in the department. Reporting to the Software Support Manager I was left to manage the technical team and make daily decisions that effected the operation of the team in order to meet business demands and achieve agreed service levels.

Technique Pro Networks – Unix Systems Administrator / Developer

January 2001

At Technique Pro, I was trained to build computer workstations and servers (for all platforms especially Sun (RISC and Intel based). Learning networking procedures on both Windows NT, 95/98 and Unix (Solaris, Sco

and Linux,) operating systems, I can provide full technical support for both the Posix (Unix based) and Microsoft Operating Systems, including full hardware and software repair.

EDUCATION

September 1994- University of Teesside, Middlesbrough
June 1996 Business and Information Systems.

September 1992- Rhodesway Upper School, Bradford
June 1994 A' Level Physics and Pure & Applied Mathematics.

September 1990- Fulneck Boys School, Pudsey, Leeds
June 1992 9 GCSEs: including Mathematics & English

INTERESTS

I enjoy rugby, badminton and football.

I spend a lot of my spare time reading fiction, as well as connecting to the internet in order to update my knowledge of current affairs in the technology world, especially in Posix based operating systems like Linux.

I am currently writing an article on Solving Technical Issues for the Linux Documentation Project.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

I speak conversational Urdu. I am a quick learner with an adept and technical mind. I am a team worker, and get along well with my colleagues. I am a very fast learner and able to apply solutions to real world problems. I have a full U.K driving license.

REFEREREES

Available upon request.