**Declan Conroy**

Pensby, Merseyside (willing to commute up to 1 hour)

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**Solutions Architect**

An accomplished and widely respected Technical Architect with 20+ years’ experience  
in developing, delivering and managing complex IT projects for a wide variety of private, public and international organisations.

**Core Competencies**

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| * **Cloud Computing (MCSA Cloud Platform)** | * **Business Process Improvement** |
| * **PowerShell** | * **Customer Relationship Management** |
| * **Networking and Virtualisation** | * **People Management & Development** |
| * **Messaging & Directory Architecture** | * **Document Management & Report Writing** |
| * **Migration Strategy & Execution** * **Project Management, Governance & Delivery** | * **Previously: MCSE, CCNA, CCDA, PRINCE 2, MoPFE, MBCS** |

**Professional Experience**

**IT CONSULTANT 2005 to Present**

Working through a limited company providing IT consultancy services to a wide variety of clients across a multitude of sectors. Acting as Project Manager and Technical Lead / Solution Architect these projects range from design, installation, testing and migrations of IT enterprise systems. Recent Projects include:

**Ombudsman Services Technical Architect – Current Contract**

Initially engaged as a Technical Architect and Project Lead for several projects within the Change and Transformation Office Digital Transformation portfolio with a focus on Azure and Office 365.

**This entailed:**

* Primarily focused on security of public facing infrastructure, achieved through deployment of Next Generation Firewall scale sets and Web Application Firewalls, with Vnet peering and subnet re-design.
* Secondary focus on cost optimization through rationalization and decommissioning of resources.
* Migration of resources from the classic Azure Services Model (ASM) to the modern Azure Resource Manager (ARM) management plane.
* Internal Technical lead on B2B website development and deployment in Azure.

**Value Added:**

* Delivered consolidated security infrastructure for multiple subscriptions located in the same Azure region.
* Forecast reduction in Azure costs of 55% from £131K to £63K per year at time of project.
* Delivery of a modern management plane with associated benefits such as cost tracking via resource tags, integration with in house RBAC model, and the availablitity of reusable ARM templates.

**Manchester Airport Group Technical Lead – 16 Month Contract**

Approached to act as Technical Lead on an Office 365 migration and to migrate legacy data to Exchange Online from IBM Lotus Domino using the Quest product set and from Exchange on premises using native tools.

**This entailed:**

* Taking ownership of and reconfiguration of the migration infrastructure achieving an order of magnitude improvement in performance.
* Defining the migration process and best practices and ensuring these processes integrated with the BAU support teams, and desktop deployment teams.
* Acting as the project technical focal point for all internal IT teams and external suppliers such as Microsoft and Quest.
* Becoming the go-to-person for other project challenges such as multi-source information extraction and collation of project data, which was accomplished via scripted automation using PowerShell
* Providing additional services to Stanstead Airport Office 365 migration, guaranteeing successfully project delivery by automating the migration processes to ensure mailbox migration for 900 users in 2 weeks.
* Enabled the AD forest migration from Stansted to Manchester, which also involved scripted automation of technical solutions not possible with in native tools

**Value Added:**

* Delivered consistency of office products across various devices thereby improving collaboration, security, reliability and compliance and successfully moved from an aging legacy system to a more modern supported environment
* Reduced email related incidents to the service from 600 per week to less than 50
* Provided value for money IT consulting services over a migration product manufacturer, saving of at least 50%

**Arrow XL Technical Lead – 3 Month Contract** Recruitedto co-ordinate the time challenged delivery of multiple missing layers of interdependent technologies by different suppliers so that the overall project/programme could stay on track.

**This entailed:**

* Meeting with suppliers and customer to gain an immediate understanding of the background, desired objectives, dependencies, responsibilities. Understanding the gap between scope and current position.
* Collating feedback, objections and rejections to gain agreed consensus on scope, responsibilities, dependencies and ownership of project elements.
* Proactively tracking the project using a CARDI log (Constraints, Assumptions, Actions, Responsibilities, Dependencies, Issues) and chairing daily/weekly project meetings
* Fulfillment of one of the technology layers, specifically the administration and configuration of Active Directory services, including DNS, DHCP, and Group Policies for Office 365, OneDrive, network connections, and desktop look and feel.

**Value Added:**

* Successfully delivered the first site on time and the rollout of subsequent sites continued as per the schedule

**Real Good Foods Solution Architect – 3 Month Contract**

Hired to lead the complete divestiture of all IT systems in 60 days to ensure the sale of a business entity. Navigated the options and challenges and proposed the best way to achieve the split of Microsoft technologies (Active Directory services, key servers and workstations) in use within the group.

**This entailed:**

* Conducting an initial assessment and informal interviews with key technical staff to gain an understanding of the historical rationale for existing infrastructure, technical and non-technical dependencies on existing infrastructure, current and future requirements, existing issues or pain points and preconceived migration strategies.
* Devising a technical solution including costs and project planning, followed by the subsequent delivery of the solution and ongoing resolution of issues.
* Building new infrastructure for both entities, and migrating users, servers and data into the corresponding infrastructures.

**Value Added:**

* Enabled the £34m sale of the business by delivering the IT separation project.

**Cloud Technology Solutions Technical Director – 11 Month Contract** Provided IT consultancy services to aid the company decide on the future direction and product development of a key product, comparing it with other products on the market and suggesting feature enhancements that would grow sales.

**This entailed:**

* Active involvement in the product sales process, assisting Sales Managers at product evaluation stage with customer to demonstrate how the product could address the technical challenges when facing a migration.
* Compiling the products strength and weaknesses and providing insight into competitor landscape.
* Shaping the Product Roadmap by collating feature requests from customers.
* Reviewing and writing the product documentation, specifically on how the product could be used in certain challenging migration scenarios, effectively opening up new markets.

**Value Added:**

* Delivered a substantial increase in sales revenue and a strong pipeline within 6 weeks of starting the role.
* Over time revenue growth supported further product investment and growth of the team from 4 to 50.

**UN International Computing Centre Migration Consultant - 5 Year Contract**

Approached by the Chief Technology Officer of the UNICC due to notoriety of co-authored articles on migrating from GroupWise to Exchange that had piqued his interest and accepted his request to assist with a stalled migration project.

**This entailed:**

* An initial meeting with the customers technical and project management team to understand their concerns, and using examples addressed these concerns in a way that allowed the project to move forwards.
* Coordinating with both UNICC and customer network and firewall teams to allow the correct communication protocols and traffic between environments.
* Liaising with customer project manager regarding scheduling of migration batches and chairing meetings with customer management teams, regarding project progress, direction and issues.
* Installing and configuring the migration infrastructure. (Involved the set up and configuration of specialist dedicated servers running a suite of required software products including GroupWise Migrator for Exchange from Quest software) to communicate with both source and target environments.
* Migrating batches of user mailboxes as per agreed schedules and resolving issues during the migration.
* Identifying, tracking and resolving customer client end user issues on the new platform.
* Tracking project constraints, assumptions, risks, issues, dependencies, actions as well as migration progress.
* Generating reports for management and producing project and solution documentation.

**Value Added:**

* Delivered the entire migration for this customer over 10 weeks which helped launch the private cloud shared email platform within UNICC as a live service.
* Retained to deliver further migration of seven other UN organisations and 26,000 mailboxes over the next four years.
* Reduced costs, as the project enabled UNICC to deliver hosted email to UN organisations and achieve economies of scale.

**Southampton University Hospital NHS Trust Technical Architect – 12 month contract**

Recruited as Technical Architect to assist Server Computer Center (SCC) by leading the project to migrate technology in three areas**:** Novell NDS to Microsoft AD (identity, authentication and access control), Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange (Email), Novell Zen Works to Microsoft SCCM (desktop configuration, asset inventory, application deployment) across 7,000 active users with up to 3,000 concurrent users; 6,000 active GW (email) mailboxes and 3,000-4,000 PC’s/workstations.

**This entailed:**

* Ensuring the project was a technical success during design, implementation, proof of concept, and pilot phases.
* Assessing current infrastructure, providing gap analysis, designing and deploying and configuring the server infrastructure, across three technology and migration streams, while constrained by the permutations that fit within the allowed budget.
* Coordinating specialist teams to deliver specific aspects and where a supplier for a specialist technology could not be found personally trained on the product to ensure project delivery.
* Chairing regular meetings with the project manager and customer to update on progress, issues and next steps

**Value Added:**

* Delivered and replaced the aging infrastructure that had no resilience to a Microsoft based platform that provided greater opportunities to exploit new and beneficial strategies for connecting with other NHS sites and resources.

**Summarised Earlier Career**

Azlan Services, Senior Consultant, York

**Compaq Computer Ireland, Messaging Solutions Consultant, Dublin**

**Icon Clinical Research, European IT Manager, Dublin**

**Hewlett Packard, IT Manager, Dublin**

**Eurokom Ltd, Systems Technician, Dublin**

**Professional Development**

BSc (Hons) Pure experimental Physics, University College Dublin

Implementing Microsoft Azure Infrastructure Solutions 70-533, Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions 70-535,

Finance for Non-Financial Managers (2013), Automating Administration with Windows PowerShell, Designing and Deploying Messaging Solutions with Microsoft Exchange Server 2010, Configuring Managing & Troubleshooting Microsoft Exchange Server 2010, IBM Lotus Domino 8 Systems Administration Operating Fundamentals

Building IBM Lotus Domino 8 Infrastructure, Managing IBM Lotus Domino 8 Servers & Users, PRINCE2, Management of Portfolios Foundation

**Technical Skills**

Microsoft Azure • PowerShell • JavaScript • JSON • Office 365 • DirSync/ AD Connect • ADFS • SSO • Exchange Online • SharePoint Online • PnP • CSOM • Skype for Business • MFA • eDirectory • Active Directory • Exchange Server • Windows Server • SCCM • GroupWise • Notes/ Domino • Networking • Firewalls / Security • Hyper-V • VMware • DNS • DHCP • DFS • GPO • Clustering •Project Management • Troubleshooting