**Zulfikar** (*zul-fee-car*) **Ali**

Residing: Birmingham, UK **|** Working: City of London **|** SC – expired 03/2019

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| **Profile** |  |
| Energetic senior Architect with 22 years of cross-sector IT industry expertise in banking and finance, energy, health, defence, retail and the public sector. Confident, perceptive and ambitious with architectural, cloud DevOps, SecOps, NetOps, pre-sales, technical management and organisational skills. Superb core skills in documentation, presentation, solution explanation, leadership and mentorship.  After 8 months at EBRD as a Cloud Architect I am seeking a new role to apply my valuable experience, expert knowledge and skills in cloud & infrastructure architecture. At EBRD I am responsible for all aspects of Public Cloud from security to networks to automation, as well as managing relationships with all internal stakeholders. | |

**Career Summary**

* Development and optimisation of customers IT strategy and architecture as a result of working with customers to understand their business requirements; customer solution lifecycle management
* Authoring high level design documents for major solutions, managing design requirements and implementation teams, maintaining effective design control processes
* Providing technical subject matter expertise to support solutions, managing the work of DevOps, architects and SMEs whilst contributing to design and implementation through review processes
* Datacentre, Cloud infrastructure & application migration; taking responsibility for all architectural aspects of complex projects, delivering an excellent customer experience
* In recent years involved in several large scale transformations to Azure and AWS all of which required a hybrid design and implementation approach, and decision making on suitability of application transition

**Professional Experience**

**Cloud Architect** | **European Bank for Reconstruction & Development**  **Jan 2019 – Present**

**Responsibilities**

* Sole Cloud Architect in EBRD responsible for all architectural aspects of Azure, technical design authority and Lead SME for DevOps team. Collaborating with EBRD Architecture team members as a Cloud SME.
* Responsible for Security of the Azure platform; High level architectural recommended practice in all aspects of Azure microservices. Hands on support of cloud activities, DR planning, HA and strategy.
* Managing business stakeholders including head of security, business application owners, infrastructure architecture, support teams and sysadmins in ensuring delivery & support of the cloud platform

**Accomplishments**

* Vastly improved the security of EBRD Azure tenant using CIS guidelines to achieve security sign-off for delivery of the first application framework and first live business application using microservices
* Supporting the DevOps team in implementing Azure Kubernetes Services, Docker Container and Jenkins for CI/CD and being the escalation point and liaison to Microsoft online support and Fast-track consulting
* Developed solutions with IaC first strategy in the configuration of Azure Platform; AKS, Jenkins, BitBucket, IaaS, PaaS, Azure AD (AD DS), RBAC, Storage, Monitoring, Alerting, PaaS SQL/CosmosDB & identity
* Developed the year end roadmap and integrated service improvements with enterprise architect; working within the agile framework for iterative application releases on behalf of App developers
* Represented the DevOps and Application Development teams at Design Authority and Security reviews
* Deployed Window ATP, Azure Sentinel and Nagios monitoring (containerised); Developed service wrapper around Cosmos DB and Azure Service Bus

**Cloud Architect** (Core Engineering Team) | **Clearstream** (Deutsche Boerse AG) **Sep 2018 – Jan 2019**

**Responsibilities**

* Cloud Architect in Clearstream responsible for onboarding critical components of Investment Fund Services applications into public cloud within strict regulatory and security requirements.
* Based onsite in Luxembourg supporting the Enterprise Architect and the Cloud Unit team in Frankfurt with deployment patterns, Ops & security changes and recommended public cloud practice

**Accomplishments**

* Produced the HLD for the first major app component to be deployed to Microsoft Azure
* Started the software delivery lifecycle for this application with a PoC, to be followed by dev, test and finally production deployment by Q1 2019
* Key stakeholder management, particularly from a security, compliance and regulatory perspective. Working with the Luxembourg regulator, CSSF, on public cloud adoption in finance
* Setup Infrastructure as Code deployment using Ansible playbooks deploying Red Hat Linux, JBoss EAP, Apache MQ and Oracle Databases with Data Guard across Dev, Test and Production
* Recommended public cloud HA approach and backup strategy for critical applications with a very low RPO

**Cloud Architect,** (Enterprise Architecture Team) | **GroupM** (a WPP company) **Apr 2018 – Aug 2018**

**Responsibilities**

* Providing a cloud operating model, a 3 year strategy, product roadmap and architectural designs for Azure and AWS. Worked with primary supplier IBM to lift existing workloads to IBM cloud
* Cloud SME delivering ‘Cloud Foundation’ framework to GroupM globally, overseeing cloud platform delivery for on-boarding of applications utilising a service wrapper from Rackspace
* Developing cloud security and compliance operations in GroupM and implementation of a DM VPN
* Stakeholder management across GroupM agencies and working with Rackspace, IBM and Microsoft
* Supported DevOps in app dev through PoC, Dev/Test into Production via NFR and Design templates
* Testing both existing and new preview features within the Azure portal using GroupM sandbox tenant

**Accomplishments**

* Delivered elements of the cloud foundation model and developed the next iteration
  + Worked with IBM, IPSOFT and AT&T to deliver a global DM VPN solution allowing global connectivity between on premise datacenters and 3 Azure VDCs (6 regions) with CSR & ASAv
  + Delivered a global API Manager solution with Traffic Manager and migrated existing APIs across
* Rationalised cloud security models into a fundamental framework and operating model. Worked across the GroupM agencies to gain commitment to security guidelines and started a secure operations centre
* Worked with the compliance lead to identify risks across cloud platforms, mitigate them and provide a method for centralised logging & reporting from the cloud services implemented
* Assisted in IdAM development between on premise AD, Azure AD and Azure AD DS, using Microsoft MIM

**Senior Solution Architect, (**Hybrid Infrastructure Design Team) | **Fujitsu** **Jun 2010 - Mar 2018**

**Responsibilities**

* Providing cloud consulting & design expertise on AWS, Azure and Fujitsu Cloud K5 (OpenStack) and supporting customers with secure cloud transformation initiatives and leading edge IT infrastructure
* Directory Services & Identity Management expert providing transformation consulting on complex global and multi-region transitions/migrations to on premise, cloud & hybrid (FIM/MIM, Azure AD, Okta)
* Supporting bid work with TCV £2-50 million, providing RFP response, consulting, costs and presenting complex solutions to customers; defining architecture alignment with industry or regulatory requirements
* Providing reference designs, assurance and aligning directory services architecture with changing trends; point of contact for directory service transformation; supporting modernisation of business processes

**Accomplishments**

* Delivered cloud consultancy and one of few Fujitsu UK colleagues with AWS Professional certification
  + Enhancing businesses through leveraging, developing and defining IT services in the cloud
  + Implemented an Azure solution for Specsavers working at risk in providing a new store proof of concept, leading to a £32 million contract win in which I deployed production Azure services
* Lead designer providing high quality identity federation designs for cloud based deployments
  + For Argos I led the ADFS, Azure AD and Office 365 integration with on premise services providing significant cost savings and easily allowing further use of Azure cloud offerings
  + Provided approved designs to Specsavers, DEFRA and Crossrail with excellent client feedback, provided multiple high level designs for FIM/MIM upgrade & transition and Azure AD, ADFS
* Enhanced and developed organisational architectural capability, mentored colleagues and enhanced colleague skillsets
  + Lead designer for Directory Services, created directory service taxonomy within solution lifecycle
  + Peer reviewer & approver of technical designs and change documentation produced by colleagues
* Successfully led & managed Directory & Exchange transitions for multiple customers using Quest tools:
  + For G4S & DCLG I led the AD/Exchange datacentre transition from existing supplier to Fujitsu

**Technical Consultant** | Parative Limited **Oct 2007 – Jun 2010**

**Responsibilities**

* Multi-disciplinary role which covered bid work, pre-sales, proof of concept, technical demos, low level & high level designs, build guides, hands on implementation and datacentre migrations/transitions
* Expert level knowledge of AD, NetWare, Exchange and SharePoint utilised on large complex multi-organisation; high level of business acumen in understanding customers future requirements
* Quest Software expert in AD, Exchange, SharePoint and migration; Over 100+ days of PS for Quest

**Accomplishments**

* Lead migration consultant for 19+ enterprise migrations including BT, Barclays, Plymouth NHS & Aviva
* Principal AD consultant, worked with +70 customers across all grades from C-level to support staff

**Migration Architect** |ATLAS Consortium (MoD, EDS, Fujitsu, Microsoft) **Apr 2006 – Oct 2007**

SC cleared EDS contractor leading migration to modernise the MOD IT landscape under the DII programme.

**Data Migration** SME |Electronic Data Systems (EDS) **Jun 2001 – Apr 2006**

Contractor, led DWP migration to AD and Exchange, led a team up to 100 engineers. Consultancy and Migration design.

**Network Migration Engineer** | Enviros Aspinwall **Jan 2001 – Jun 2001**

**Data Migration Engineer**, EDS **Nov 2000 – Dec 2000**

**User Support and Floorwalker**, Transco **Aug 2000 – Sep 2000**

**2nd Line Support Engineer**, Royal Dutch Shell **Jun 1999 – Jun 2000**

**Support Analyst**, SCC **Apr 1999 – Jun 1999**

**Migration Engineer**, KPMG **Sep 1998 – Mar 1999**

**Migration Support Analyst**, Transco **Feb 1998 – Sep 1998**

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| **Learning** | **2017** | Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions (Exam 70-534)  Designing and Implementing Cloud Data Platform Solutions (Exam 70-473) |
|  | **2016** | **TOGAF 9.1** Certified; **AWS** Certified SA Professional [expired] |
|  | **2015** | **AWS** Certified SA Associate [expired] |
|  | **2012** | **ITIL** Foundation v3 |
|  | **2008** | **MCITP 2008** Enterprise Architect; **MCTS** SharePoint; **MCSE 2003** Security |
|  | **1994-1997** | **BSc Psychology**, University of Wolverhampton |

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| **Core Skills** | **Cloud:** Microservices (Kubernetes, AKS, Docker, Helm); Code (BitBucket, GitHub, GoGit) Automation (ARM, Ansible [Tower], Terraform, Puppet); CI/CD (Jenkins, Harness CD); Red Hat (OpenStack, OpenShift, CloudForms); PaaS, IaaS, SaaS; Code Deploy (VSTS, SonarQube); Nexus Repo, Nexus IQ; StorageOS; Nagios  **AWS:** Elastic Beanstalk, OpsWork, CloudFormation, IAM, VPC, Auto Scaling, EC2, Lambda  **Azure**: AKS, Logic Apps, App Service, Service Fabric, Azure AD, B2C/B2B, Sentinel  **Identity**: One Identity, IDaaS, FIM, MIM, AD FS, Okta, Ping Identity, SAML, OAuth, PIM/PAM  **Operating Systems**:Windows Server & Client (all versions), Unix (Red Hat, CentOS & Ubuntu)  **Data Protection:**  GDPR, Commvault, Veritas NetBackup, Veeam, Dell EMC, CyberArk  **Security:** McAfee EPO; Alert Logic; Rapid7; Defender ATP; OS Hardening; Cloud Guard; Nexus IQ  **Virtualisation** VMware vSphere, Horizon, Microsoft Hyper-V, KVM & Xen  **Dev & DB’s:** Python, JSON, PowerShell; SQL Server, MySQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Cosmos DB  **Soft Skills**: Listening; Documentation; Organisation; Negotiation; Mentoring; Critical Thinking; Problem Solving; Teamwork; Leadership; Self Motivated; Analytical; Flexibility; Training |

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| **Interests** | Providing free IT training & mentoring in Birmingham and beyond  Web development using WordPress, Python, HTML and CSS  Interest in sport, primarily boxing & football. Enthusiast in astronomy & natural science. |

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| **Voluntary** | **Governor Role** (2011-2015) – Vice Chair of Governors at my local primary school. Full CRB |  |
|  | **Unity FM** (Community Radio)– volunteer IT Manager from station inception in 2006 to 2011 |  |