Andrew Gelnar

Principal Platform Engineer, London   apgelnar@gmail.com

A seasoned cloud infrastructure professional with extensive experience leading and managing high-performance teams. Skilled in designing and deploying cloud infrastructure solutions, managing projects, and ensuring compliance with industry best practices.

Skills

Advanced	AWS, Terraform, Python, Bash, SQL, Git, Databricks, Cloud architecture,
Proficient	Docker, GitHub, Okta, CI/CD practices, SRE, Automated Testing, Project Management, People Management
Intermediate	Kubernetes, Helm, Apache Kafka, Apache Spark, Redis, SQLite, Postgres, NGINX, Linux

Employment History

March 2021 - MatchesFashion
present   *Senior DevOps Engineer, Principal Platform Engineer*

Main Technologies, tools, or Skills: AWS, Databricks, spark, Terraform, GitHub, Apache Kafka, Lucid Chart, Excalidraw, Okta, system design, People Management, Project Management

- Joined the Data Platform team and lead the initial design of the new Databricks based Datalake, focusing on resiliency and security & compliance. Responsible for all aspects of the Data team's cloud infrastructure with extensive setups around Networking, IAM and S3 security.

- Acted as SME and architect for the Data dept. designing resilient pipelines including S3/SQS/Lambda based pipelines for event-driven batch file ingestion and Apache Kafka/Databricks/Spark for event-sourced ingestion.

- Took on management of the data platform team defining the team's roadmap and liaising with stakeholders in the greater tech team. This also involved upskilling the junior engineers on the team expanding their skillsets into cloud engineering as well as Engineering Enablement practices.

- Later moved into core engineering and took on management of the Network Infrastructure team who are responsible for Matches' physical network and on-prem infrastructure, as well as our AWS-based Windows estate. Managing both teams' separate roadmaps and interacting with separate sets of stakeholders across the tech dept. Notably this involved recovering a large migration project for our AWS cloud from VPC-peer based to Transit Gateway based after all previous team members on the project resigned.

- As Principal Platform Engineer sat across the entire tech department acting as an SME for AWS and other cloud services, notably advising our security functions for cloud and information security. Filled a partially operational role managing some of Matches' suite of cloud products including GCP, Okta, LastPass, and various DNS providers.

Jul 2019 -   OakNorth
Feb 2021   *Senior Engineer, Tech Lead*

Main Technologies, tools, or Skills: Terraform, AWS, Helm, Docker, Kubernetes, AzureAD, GitHub, DataDog, PagerDuty, Lucid Chart, system design, Management

- Joined the newly formed Infra team owning Cloud Infrastructure and SRE functions. Worked on all aspects of our cloud infrastructure projects. A large portion of time dedicated to helping other teams with their on-demand infrastructure needs, debugging issues with their applications and helping with design decisions.

- Took over as tech lead in Q1 of 2020. Managed team roadmap, a large component of which was prioritising incoming requirements from several disparate and disconnected sections of the company. Also managed team growth and development, advising on career progression and giving periodic feedback on performance. Heavily involved in the recruitment process for multiple engineering roles, and worked directly with the talent team to hire members of the Infra team.

- Worked closely with the Security and Compliance teams to ensure the cloud infrastructure and application design/architecture adhered to industry best practices and handled client data appropriately. This involved being a key advisor and reviewer for designs of new features involving data.

- Performed on call duties and worked closely with the heads of engineering and product support to refine our incident handling policies.

- Instigated and managed our access control procedures for the engineering department to fill a shortfall in compliance, and worked with IT to harden our security with better SSO integrations, and utilisation of AzureAD's auto-provisioning with SCIM wherever possible.

May 2018 -   Red Ventures
Jun 2019   *Senior Engineer*

Main Technologies, tools, or Skills: Terraform, AWS, GCP, Golang, Kubernetes, Apache Kafka

- Joined to help build and run cloud infrastructure team, working with several engineering teams in the US to bring RV's tech stack to the EU. Authored and maintained reusable Terraform configuration to support migrating suites of microservices in AWS cloud.

- Migrating these systems involved working closely with the Security and Compliance departments from both the UK and the US to ensure they adhered to local UK and EU legislation (GDPR, PECR, e-privacy, etc).

- Created initial infrastructure for Bankrate UK's initial launch, and worked to migrate it from a statically generated site in AWS S3 to an application hosted in GCP's Kubernetes engine GKE.

- Moved to work with the Data Services team of our new operating partner (ZPG Comparison - uSwitch & money.co.uk) following a structural change in the business. This involved creating a new secure real-time event pipeline using Apache Kafka and AWS' DynamoDB, written in Golang.

May 2016 -   Condé Nast Britain
May 2018   *Software Engineer*

Main Technologies, tools, or Skills: Python (Flask, SQLAlchemy), Postgres, Redis, RabbitMQ, Docker, AWS

- Responsible for backend and infrastructure taking over the migration to AWS ECS.

- Created new read-only API to decrease site load times. Also created and fixed caching site-wide using Redis to solve periodic site outages related to releases and cache space changes.

- Worked with the Product and Front-End teams to design extensible data models for modeling editorial content, and basic design of back-office CMS interfaces.

- Instigated new Git workflows and release processes to scale with growing numbers of engineers. Worked on extending our in-house build and deploy tool *Brickyard* in support of these processes.

Jun 2012 -   Geneity Ltd. (part of Playtech Sports)
May 2016   *Software Developer*

Main Technologies, tools, or Skills: Python, Oracle, SQLite, Memcache, Redis, RabbitMQ, Bash, Git, Docker, docker-compose, HTML, CSS, JavaScript

- Worked on backend and APIs, and on the operations team providing 1st-3rd line support for all systems.

- conducted technical interviews, mentored new starters, and management of a small development team.

Education

BSc (Hons) in Computer Science 2:1 - The University of Manchester
A Levels: Maths A, Computing B, physics B, Chemistry C
AS Levels: Philosophy D
GCSE: Maths: A*, Statistics: A*, English (Lang): A, English (lit): B, Science (double award): AA, Music: A, German: A, IT: A, Religious Studies: C