

Pius Dan Nyongesa

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EXPERIENCE

- **Microsoft** Nairobi, KE
Software Engineer May 2019 - Present
 - **Windows Compatibility Tooling:** Designed and built a platform to run automated tests on thousands of Windows applications daily in order to detect application compatibility issues. This system, built using a microservices architecture and deployed on Azure. The platform played a key role in reducing the time to ship Windows versions from 3 months to one month as Microsoft can now discover bugs faster.
 - **Windows Compatibility Infrastructure:** Owned the deployment of code and environments to support detection of compatibility issues between Windows versions. Implemented an Infrastructure as Code solution to manage the deployment of code and environments. Implemented a zero-touch deployment for code and backing services on Azure. Defined SLAs and SLOs for the service. Built a monitoring solution to track the health of the service.
 - **Azure Migration Tooling:** Built cloud tools to determine incompatibilities on on-prem servers when a customer is migrating their workloads to Azure. Built an automated deployment pipeline to deploy code and infrastructure components across multiple availability zones using a ringed approach. Implemented a Blue-Green deployment model to ensure zero downtime deployment.

Relevant Skills:Azure, C#, Powershell, Python, Distributed Systems, Microservices

- **Loanbee Limited** Nairobi, KE
Software Engineer Jun 2018 - May 2019
 - **Loanbee Lending Platform:** Built a lending platform that allowed customers to apply for loans and get instant approval. The platform was built on a microservices architecture and was deployed on a Kubernetes cluster.
 - **Alternative credit scoring:** Deployed an alternative credit scoring model to determine loan eligibility for customers based on their mobile money transactions. The model reduced the default rates by 15%.
 - **Observability:** Built and deployed an elastic search, kibana and logstash stack monitoring system that allowed for realtime monitoring of application running across multiple Virtual machine instances.
 - **Service Mesh:** Enhanced the security and reliability of services running on Kubernetes cluster by deploying an Istio service mesh. This architecture allowed us to use mutual TLS to enhance security. The service mesh also allowed for error handling and retries in case of service failures enabling us build a fault tolerant microservices architecture.

Relevant Skills:Python, Kubernetes, Google Cloud, Elixir, Docker, Istio, Elastic Search, Kibana, Logstash, Microservices

- **AfrikasTalking LTD** Nairobi, KE
Software Developer Apr 2017 - Jun 2018
 - **Dodore Training Platform:** Worked with Dodore Agriculture, a startup based in Nairobi to build a SMS based platform that allowed the company to rollout educational campaigns to over 10,000 farmers on their portfolio.
 - **Tuwajibike Mashinani Public Participation Portal:** Worked Mbaika Connect to build a public participation portal that allowed citizens to give feedback on various issues directly to the leaders using a USSD application.
 - **Cash value Solutions Event Ticketing System:** Worked with the team to build an event ticketing system that allowed event organizers to sell tickets to their events through ussd. The system also had a billing module to allow customers purchase airtime and pay utility bills.
 - **Software Developer Intern:** Developed product demos to Guide developers when integrating Africa's Talking Voice, USSD, Airtime and SMS APIs.

Relevant Skills:Python, Flask, Django, USSD, SMS, Voice, Airtime, API Integration, Microservices

PROJECTS

- **Robopal AI:** Built an AI bot aimed to democratise access to education for over 10,000 learners across Africa.
<https://robopal.co>
- **USSD Tutorial:** Step by step Tutorial to guide learners in developing USSD applications.
<https://github.com/piusdan/USSD-Python-Demo>
- **USSD SDK:** Open sourced an SDK to build reliable and fast USSD applications.
<https://github.com/piusdan/flask-ussd-flow>

- **Kubernetes on Azure:** Wrote a publication on how to secure Kubernetes Clusters on Cloud.
<https://piusdan.medium.com/kubernetes-security-faf59ac121e1>
- **Speaker at GDG Fest Nairobi:** GDG is a community of cloud experts in Africa. I presented my learnings on reliably running a Kubernetes cluster on cloud.
- **Speaker at Pycon:** Pycon is the largest conference on python held annually accross all geogrp hic zones. I presented on using GRPC to build fast and reliable microservices was well received.
- **Founder - Silicon Blaze:** During my first and second year of campus, I founded Silicon blaze and organization aimed at democratising access to Computer Science for young learners around Kenya. I led a team of 20 volunteers to teach over 1000 students in 10 schools.

EDUCATION

- **Jomo Kenyatta University of Science and Technology**
BSc. Computer Science