

Simon Aquino

ENGINEERING MANAGER · HEAD OF PLATFORM · CLOUD-NATIVE ARCHITECT (GCP/AWS/AZURE)

London, United Kingdom (open to relocation)

☎ +44 (0) 7514 902 489 | ✉ simon.aquino@gmail.com | 🏠 www.simonaquino.com | 📱 [queeno](https://www.instagram.com/queeno) | 🔗 [linkedin.com/in/simonaquino](https://www.linkedin.com/in/simonaquino) | 🇬🇧 UK & EU Citizen

Executive Profile

Hands-on Engineering Leader with 15+ years of experience building and scaling high-performance teams in AI-driven and data-intensive environments. Combines deep architectural expertise in Cloud-Native systems (GCP/AWS, Kubernetes) and secure, event-driven architectures with a proven track record of growing engineering units from seed to enterprise scale. A "builder-leader" who thrives on solving complex technical challenges—from regulatory compliance to distributed orchestration—while fostering cultures of ownership and engineering excellence.

- **Organisational Growth:** Extensive experience defining hiring strategies and scaling engineering organisations (from 3 to 50+), managing the full employee lifecycle to build high-trust, autonomous teams.
- **Technical Strategy:** Expert in bridging the gap between business goals and technical execution, designing scalable, event-driven architectures (Kubernetes, Go) and "Golden Path" platforms that transform Developer Experience (DevEx) and product velocity.
- **Operational Excellence:** Dedicated to raising the bar on engineering standards, embedding security/compliance (GDPR, ISO, SOX, NIST), and driving continuous improvement in CI/CD, observability, and system resilience.
- **Stakeholder Management:** Skilled in navigating complex multi-stakeholder environments, translating architectural needs into commercial value, and managing multi-million pound budgets to align technical roadmaps with company strategy.

Professional Experience

Barclays (Payments Incubator)

London, UK

PRINCIPAL PLATFORM CONSULTANT (CONTRACT)

Oct. 2025 - Present

- **Greenfield Strategy:** Architecting the Internal Developer Platform (IDP) for the Payments division, leveraging AWS and Kubernetes to modernise DevEx and critical processing rails for high-throughput payments.
- **Organisational Transformation:** Leading the technical transformation of a software unit into Cloud-Native Platform Engineers, accelerating adoption through hands-on pair programming and coaching the internal Tech Lead on platform strategy and team enablement.
- **Strategic Governance:** Acting as the Technical Authority for the incubator, defining 'Golden Path' architecture patterns and automated compliance frameworks to transition legacy systems into a secure, self-service ecosystem.

JPMorgan Chase / Core Engineering Consulting Group

London, UK

ENGINEERING MANAGER, ACCELERATOR PLATFORM

Apr. 2023 - Sep. 2025

- **Scaling High-Performance Teams:** Scaled the Cloud Enablement unit from 3 to 50+ engineers, owning the full employee lifecycle (hiring, performance management, retention) to build a diverse, high-trust engineering culture focused on delivery excellence.
- **Enterprise-Scale Infrastructure:** Architected the firm-wide GCP foundation and Kubernetes ecosystem (100+ clusters), creating repeatable blueprints and automated control implementations (aligned to NIST) to enable the secure delivery of mission-critical, data-intensive workloads.
- **Strategic Alignment:** Partnered with C-suite executives to align technical roadmaps with business goals, translating architectural decisions into commercial value and managing a multi-million pound vendor budget.
- **Operational Excellence:** Championed a Platform-as-a-Product mindset, introducing Crossplane and GitOps to significantly improve Developer Experience (DevEx), system observability (Prometheus/Grafana), and platform reliability.

Deloitte

Copenhagen, Denmark

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVOPS LEAD - AWS

Mar. 2021 - Mar. 2023

- **Multi-Vendor Leadership:** Led the cloud infrastructure stream for Denmark's critical Property Tax Platform, orchestrating 3 satellite teams to drive delivery autonomy and resolve cross-functional architectural blockers.
- **Strategic Cost Optimisation:** Executed a high-impact infrastructure consolidation strategy, simplifying legacy complexity to reduce monthly cloud operational costs without compromising system performance.
- **Modernisation & Security:** Eliminated high-risk technical debt by replacing brittle custom authentication with managed AWS API Gateway, establishing a standardised, secure pattern for external integrations.

Microsoft

London, UK

PRINCIPAL CONSULTANT - AZURE

Nov. 2020 - Mar. 2021

- **High-Frequency Trading Acceleration:** Rescued a stalled on-prem to Azure migration for a major trading platform, optimising AKS and EventHubs architectures to handle massive throughput and condense the delivery timeline from years to months.
- **Strategic Enablement:** Delivered the first fully automated development environment, acting as the technical bridge between client business units and Microsoft Product Engineering.

Loveholidays

LEAD PLATFORM ENGINEER - GCP

- Performance Engineering:** Diagnosed and resolved critical latency bottlenecks in the core search engine, profiling Go/Java microservices to optimise Kubernetes autoscaling and achieve a 30% performance increase.
- Event-Driven Architecture:** Designed and developed a custom Go library for real-time database synchronisation via GCS, reducing data propagation latency from minutes to seconds to improve customer search accuracy.

London, UK

Mar. 2020 - Oct. 2020

eBay

LEAD DEVOPS ENGINEER - GCP

- Global Cloud Transformation:** Orchestrated the strategic migration of eBay's Classifieds vertical to Google Cloud (GCP), architecting standardised GKE workflows to enable rapid deployment for distributed engineering teams across Europe.

Berlin, Germany

Jun. 2019 - Mar. 2020

Previous Engagements (Select Highlights)

SENIOR DEVOPS ENGINEER / CONSULTANT

- Deloitte (Copenhagen):** Architected immutable AWS infrastructure for critical Danish Tax systems, introducing IaC to reduce deployment frequency from weeks to hours.
- Element Insurance (Berlin):** Built the greenfield AWS/Kubernetes foundation for a high-growth FinTech startup, serving as Interim Team Lead to scale early engineering capability.
- HMRC (London):** Core WebOps Engineer for the UK's hyper-scale digital tax platform; contributed to open-source tooling to ensure multi-cloud resilience during peak filing windows.
- Google (London/Dublin):** Developed Python/App Engine automation tools to optimise internal engineering workflows, awarded multiple peer bonuses for code quality and innovation.

Europe

2010 - 2019

Skills

Leadership & Strategy

Engineering Strategy, Tech Recruitment, Team Scaling (3-50+), Remote/Distributed Leadership, Performance Management, Executive Stakeholder Management, Vendor Strategy, Budgeting, FinOps.

Cloud & Platform

GCP (Pro Architect), AWS, Azure, Kubernetes (K8s), Internal Developer Platforms (IDP), Developer Experience (DevEx), Platform-as-a-Product, Terraform/Hashicorp, Crossplane, ArgoCD, Flux, Helm, Istio.

Architecture & Dev

Go, Python, Ruby, Bash, C, Java Spring Boot, Event-Driven Architecture, Distributed Systems, Microservices, API Design (gRPC/REST), Domain-Driven Design (DDD).

Ops, Security & Data

Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog, DevSecOps, Zero Trust, ISO27001/SOC2 Controls, AI/ML Infrastructure Readiness, SRE Practices.

Education

University of Bristol

MASTER OF ENGINEERING (MENG) HONS IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRONICS

Bristol, UK

2012

Languages

English

C2 - Native / Bilingual Proficiency

Italian

C2 - Native / Bilingual Proficiency

German

B2 - Professional Working Proficiency

Danish

A2 - Elementary Proficiency

Certificates

2025

Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Professional Cloud Architect (PCA)

2025

Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Generative AI Leader

2015

Scrum Alliance, Certified ScrumMaster (CSM)

2014

UK Government, UK Security Clearance (SC) [Previous]

2014

Red Hat, Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCSA)

2013

VMware, Certified Advanced Professional 5 - Data Centre Admin (VCAP5-DCA)

2013

VMware, Certified Professional 5 - Data Centre Virtualisation (VCP5-DV)

2011

Google, Python Readability (Internal Code Quality Award)