Elena Grahovac

Engineering Manager in Infrastructure

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Summary

I am an Engineering Manager with a background in backend development and infrastructure. My main goal is to make and keep teams self-managed and help people grow. I prefer to delegate as much as possible, share responsibility with those who are ready for it, give feedback, and provide support when needed.

Work experience

Engineering Manager   Dec 2019 - Now

GetYourGuide - Berlin, Germany

I am responsible for the Developer Enablement team who focuses on developer productivity and experience. Main topics: CI/CD, release management, artifact management, local and testing environments, automation of development processes.

Keywords: team processes, performance, growth, motivation; product management; stakeholder management; conflict management.

Main Technologies: Go, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, Drone CI, Spinnaker, Datadog, Sentry.

Duties:

- Strategy formulation.
- Roadmap planning and implementation.
- Definition and visualization of team processes and duties.
- Recruitment and staff planning.
- Operational ownership.
- Hands-on development and support.
- Developer productivity measurement.

Main accomplishments:

- Reduced incidents related to broken deployments.
- Improved reliability of developer enablement tooling.
- Improved user experience and documentation for the team's services.
- Improved the level of support the team provides.
- Kept the team's motivation high during the COVID-19 crisis.

Lead TechOps Automation Engineer   Jul 2018 - Nov 2019

N26 - Berlin, Germany

I was leading a team whose main purpose is the automation of TechOps-related topics. Main stakeholders: HR, Helpdesk, Security, SRE, Compliance.

Tasks: Design and development of services, code review, releases. Technical management. People leadership.

Main Technologies: Go, PostgreSQL, Docker, Nomad, Vault, Consul, Datadog, Jenkins.

Main accomplishments:

- Improved and automated several onboarding-related processes.
- Designed from scratch and implemented a reliable system (monolith -> microservices) that implemented onboarding automation.
- Introduced best practices of writing Cloud-Native Go applications (which were

Key competencies

- Leadership and Mentorship
- Software Design
- Cloud-Native Infrastructure and Applications
- Stakeholder Management

Main principles

- Team Work & Trustworthiness
- Communication
- Result-, Quality- and Security-Orientation
- DevOps-mindset

Management

- Systems Thinking
- OMG Essence
- Lean and Agile
- Theory of Constraints
- OKR

Technical Background

Main Programming Languages
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- Go
- Python

Containers & Orchestration
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- Kubernetes
- Nomad
- Docker

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- Terraform
- Ansible

reused by some other teams).
- Prepared a tool to generate new microservices automatically.
- Prepared an Onboarding plan for Software Engineers of the TechOps Automation Team.
- Supported a new project as an Interim Product Owner when it was necessary.

Senior Go Developer   Oct 2017 - Jul 2018
DCMN – Berlin, Germany

I was working on several projects as a backend and operations engineer. One of the projects was a high available RTB system with ~20k RPS on average.

Tasks: Design and development of services, some refactoring and automation, code review, releases, some operational (infrastructure) stuff. Contributing to a team working on the process improvements (e.g. decision making) at the company.

Main Technologies: Go, Python, C#, PostgreSQL, Aerospike, Elasticsearch, Redis, Docker, rkt.

Accomplishments:
- Supported and improved existing systems to keep their reliable state.
- Improved documentation of some complicated parts of the projects.
- Shared best practices of Go programming with the team.
- Fearlessly dived into Windows programming with C# :)
- Introduced some container management and Cloud-Native topics.

SWE/SRE/Team Lead   Oct 2016 - Sep 2017
Openprovider – Novosibirsk, Russia

I was working on projects of a new design vision as a Tech Leader / Scrum Master / Software Engineer. We were adopting a new way for Openprovider's applications: small independent microservices.

Tasks: Design and development of services from scratch, development of necessary libraries, some refactoring and automation, SRE topics.

Technologies: Go, MySQL, PostgreSQL, RabbitMQ, Etcd, Vault, Docker, Kubernetes, Ansible, HAProxy, Zabbix, Prometheus, Grafana, Swagger, Jenkins, Drone CI.

Accomplishments:
- Defined requirements for services and infrastructure with Go, Docker, and Kubernetes.
- Prepared a typical "template" service and develop its implementations for a few different business tasks (production-ready state).
- Our team prepared a workshop "Production-ready microservices with Go and Kubernetes" to share our knowledge and experience worldwide

Software Development Engineer   Aug 2016 - Oct 2016
mc² software – Moscow, Russia

Various tasks for MegafonTV (http://megafon.tv) backend web services: REST API, push notifications, messaging, special offers, dealing with logs, and more.

Technologies: Go, PostgreSQL, Ansible, Drone CI.

Lead Software Development Engineer   Nov 2015 - Aug 2016
Fabrikant.ru – Moscow, Russia

I was a team leader and a Scrum Master in a small team (5 people).

Tasks: registration, search, tariff management, and other important services of Fabrikant.ru platform.

CI/CD
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- Jenkins
- Drone CI
- Travis CI
- GitHub Actions
- GitLab CI

Observability
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- OpenTelemetry
- Jaeger
- Datadog
- Prometheus
- Grafana
- Sentry
- Kibana

Databases & Search Engines
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- PostgreSQL
- MySQL
- MongoDB
- Elasticsearch
- Sphinx

Others
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- Vault
- Consul
- Nginx
- HAProxy
- RabbitMQ
- Redis

Recent Talks & Workshops

- Getting started with observability in Go (in Russian)
- Production-Ready Microservices with Go and Kubernetes (feat. Daniel Mahlow)
- Security Checklist for a Go Developer
- Going Secure with Go (feat. Baruch Sadogursky)
- Best Practices for Cloud-Native Go Services

Technologies: Go, PHP, MySQL, Sphinx, Ansible, Nginx, GitLab CI.

Senior Software Development Engineer   Apr 2013 - Oct 2015

NGS.ru – Novosibirsk, Russia

I was the lead developer of the team who made big project N1.ru from scratch.

Tasks: project design and basic framework, search, REST API design and development of services, some automation.

Technologies: PHP, MySQL, MongoDB, Memcached, ElasticSearch, Sphinx, Nginx, Zabbix.

Software Development Engineer   Oct 2011 - Mar 2013

2GIS – Novosibirsk, Russia

Worked on REST API services.

Tasks: Import data from internal and external sources.

Technologies: PHP, Python, PostgreSQL, PostGIS, Sphinx, Memcached, Redis, Nginx, Chef, Jenkins.

Software Development Engineer   Jun 2010 - Sep 2011

Novotelecom – Novosibirsk, Russia

Worked on external websites and internal automation projects. Main project: CN.ru.

Technologies: PHP, MySQL, Nginx, Memcached, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

Software Development Engineer   Oct 2009 - Apr 2010

Sibwaypro.ru – Novosibirsk, Russia

Improved and developed web sites.

Technologies: PHP, MySQL, Nginx, JavaScript, HTML, CSS

Software Development Engineer   Sep 2007 - Sep 2009

Egida, Informatization Center – Novosibirsk, Russia

Made a lot of simple websites for the projects of Novosibirsk Government (Education Department). The main project: NIOS.

Technologies: PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, HTML, CSS.

Education

Applied Mathematics and Informatics, Bachelor's degree   2005 - 2009

Novosibirsk State Technical University (NSTU)

Disciplines: Data structures, Algorithms, Graph theory, Object-Oriented Design and programming, Databases, System programming, Computer systems and networks, Concurrent computing, Probability theory and statistics, Mathematical modeling, Mathematical physics, etc.
Programming languages: C/C++, Fortran, PHP, Prolog, Haskell, Python, Java.
Activities: Competitive math and programming.