Sebastian Lewis

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Profile

I am a highly skilled and experienced Lead Platform Engineer with 6 years of hands-on expertise in designing, implementing, and maintaining platforms. I strive to and have a proven track record of creating robust, efficient, secure, and observable platforms using cutting-edge technologies. With a proactive mindset, I approach tasks responsibly and pragmatically. I excel individually and lead teams to achieve collective goals, promoting cooperation and maximising team potential.

Skills

- **Cloud providers -** Azure, GCP, (AWS but only with personal use)
- **IaC** - Ansible, Helm, ARM, Terraform
- **Orchestration** - Kubernetes, Docker, Istio
- **Monitoring tools -** Grafana, Prometheus, Kiali, Sentry, AppInsights, LogAnalytics
- **Scripting -** Bash, Python, Powershell
- **DevOps Tools** - Azure DevOps, GitHub, Concourse, Jenkins, MSTeams, Slack
- **Knowledgable in** - APIs, Networking, SQL, Security, Observability, Disaster recovery
- **Programming Language**s - Python, Java, C#/.NET, Ruby, Haskell, Go
- **Web Languages** - React, HTML, CSS, JavaScript
- **Operating Systems used** - Windows, macOS, and Linux

Work Experience

Insurwave - Lead Platform Engineer, *London, July 2023 - present*

I work at Insurwave, a company developing a SaaS platform to modernise speciality insurance by connecting participants. The company counts some of the biggest shipping companies in the world as its clients.
My responsibilities currently cover managing a team of 4 platform engineers and leading them to provide benefits to the organisation in all aspects of the platform. Since taking the team's helm, I have instilled sustainability, observability, and ambitious values. Currently, this has led me (and the team) to the following achievements:

- **Brought cohesion, structure, and guidance to the team**
  - After missing a lead, I have rallied and refocused the team to ensure we are a high-performing engineering function. I did this by reapplying processes and ceremonies and identifying and prioritising problem areas in the platform.
- **Terraform - Defined and guided new procedures for the team**
  - Ensured team commitment by tackling engaging and beneficial work.
  - Created a framework ingrained with security, observability and reliability.
  - Overhauled AI Platform within 6 weeks.
- **Deployment standardisation of a brand-new AI platform**
  - A manual process had been followed during my time away, creating an unmanageable solution.
  - Reduced cost by 70% via the streamlining and removal of redundant infrastructure.
  - Brought new environment deployment time down by 90% (48hrs -> 3hrs).
- **Reduced Disaster Recovery time to under 3 hours**
- **On-the-fly environment creation**
  - Rolled out in 6 weeks, proving our capabilities to deploy into client spaces.
- **Migration of FrontEnd services from Kubernetes to CDN**
  - Allowed for better performance and testing, this was migrated to with 0 downtime.

Just Eat Takeaway.com - Senior DevOps Engineer, *London, February 2023 - July 2023*

I was hired at JustEat in their data platforms department; my primary responsibilities here were guiding multiple engineering teams based in numerous countries on integrating and leveraging automation within the data platforms space, covering tools/capabilities such as GCP, Terraform, Airflow and GitHub Actions.

- **Definition of brand-new CI/CD processes**
  - Collating teams using GitLabs, Jenkins, and Concourse into a single Github Actions approach.
  - A focus on dependency management, rollback capabilities, and mono-repo ability.
- **Creation of end-to-end Airflow environments**
  - Self-service automated infrastructure capabilities exposed to developers via Terraform
  - Integration with the development process to simplify DAG creation
- **Ensuring smooth cross-cloud integrations**
  - Leading teams in migrating from AWS to GCP, including data migration (Redshift -> BigQuery)

Work Experience

Insurwave - Platform Engineer, *London, February 2021 - January 2023*

Every activity I undertook at Insurwave was completed in the most automated, secure, and resilient manner. This led me to implement and maintain the following:

- **All infrastructure and its integrity**
  - Streamline and bolster AKS Clusters with cost-effective auto-scaling capabilities
  - Provisioning and decommissioning whole new environments within minutes
  - Integrating with third-party solutions such as SendGrid, Digicert, Twilio SMS, Aviatrix
- **CI/CD strategies via Azure DevOps**
  - Self-sufficient and high-speed process to best support developers
  - Integration of code analysis tools such as 42Crunch, Pact Broker, and Swagger comparisons
- **Azure Resources**
  - Creation of all resources required for the platform in an automated, repeatable way
  - Regular automated reprovisioning, backups, and rotation of keys
- **Bespoke services to meet client needs**
  - Creation of client-facing services based on requirements without any reliance on dev teams
- **Monitoring capabilities on all levels**
  - Implemented monitoring via Grafana/Prometheus/Kiali/AppInsights/Sentry
- **Networking configuration**
  - Istio service mesh implementation and VPN setup for internal services
- **Data analytics functionality**
  - Implementation using Zoho analytics along with ETL functionality using Python
- **Disaster recovery processes**
  - Rollout of high-speed and cost-efficient active/passive setup
- **Authentication/Authorisation strategies**
  - Internally via Azure AD utilising RBAC and SPNs and externally via Auth0

iPSL – Intelligent Processing Solutions Ltd - DevOps Engineer, *Northampton, August 2018 - February 2021*

After working for 2 years as a consultant, I was made permanent at iPSL, a company handling cheque processing for Lloyds, HSBC, and Barclays. The main project I worked on was the migration from TFS over to Azure DevOps. I liaised with stakeholders to gather and implement requirements, creating solutions for all issues presented and becoming the primary resource for the newly implemented toolset. Whilst here, I headed up:

- **The adoption of git and DevOps, including the training of over 250+ users**
- **Creation of a release strategy with a focus on automation, shortening the release cycle by 25%**
- **Automation for business issues and to enable a flawless migration**

Sparta Global – Technical Consultant - DevOps/SDET, *May 2018 - July 2020*

After University, I was hired by Sparta Global, where I established myself as an SME in helping the client adopt DevOps tools/methodologies and was recognised as Sparta Global's employee of the month in August 2019

Computer Volunteer, Northfield Community Partnership, *February 2018 - May 2018*

While I was here, I taught digital skills to vulnerable people who weren't confident with computers and helped with the food bank.

Education

University Of Birmingham - BSc Computer Science, *2014-2017*

Dissertation - Implementation of hidden functionality within a web page
Key Modules - Software Engineering, Networks, Software System Components, Computer Security, Databases
Halesowen College *2012-2014* - BTEC Level 3 IT Course Grade: Distinction*
Bartley Green Technology College *2007-2012* - 8 GCSEs, 2 BTECS, and an OCR including Maths and English (B-C)

Certifications

- **AZ-900** - Microsoft Azure Fundamentals, *September 2020*
- **PSM1** - Professional Scrum Master, *February 2020*
- **ISTQB** - Certified Tester Foundation Level, *July 2018*