# Sebastian Lewis

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## Profile

I am a hard-working, enthusiastic Platform Engineer seeking an opportunity to utilise my skills, challenge myself, and add value to any business. I take a responsible, pragmatic approach to any task I am given. I will also take any chance to learn new skills and improve upon current ones. I specialise in **infrastructure as code and DevOps**.

I have hands-on experience creating and maintaining Azure cloud environments and CI/CD pipelines, covering scaling, monitoring, networking, and disaster recovery. I have led projects to define new practices, tools, and strategies for organisations. In my roles, I often receive requests from external and internal users for fixes or upgrades; even in the most high-pressure situations, I strive to tackle these requests in as swift, automated, and repeatable a process as possible to ensure the ongoing resilience of the platforms.
I am keen never to be tied down to single technologies and strive to have as broad a knowledge as possible. Much of my time is spent debugging and fixing issues. I have a great approach to tackling issues that aren't initially clear.

## Work Experience

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

I currently work for Insurwave, having previously spent 2 years there. 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 values of sustainability, observability, and thinking big. Currently, this has led me (and the team) to the following achievements:

- **Brought cohesion, structure, and guidance to the team**
  - For some time, the team was missing a lead; on my return, I rallied and refocused the team to ensure we are a high-performing engineering function. This was done by reapplying processes and ceremonies previously in place and identifying and prioritising problem areas in the platform.
- **Terraform - Defined and guided new procedures for the team**
  - Previously, as a team, we'd only tackled IaC via ARM templates; however, for the betterment of the platform and the team, it was time for a better approach.
  - Terraform was chosen and implemented with a reusable process ingrained with security, observability and reliability.
  - A complete overhaul was finished on the AI platform within 6 weeks, and all further changes were implemented with Terraform as standard.
- **Deployment standardisation of a brand-new AI platform**
  - A purchased AI capability had been manually deployed per instructions provided by the seller.
  - A reduction in 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**
  - Hassle-free single button press region failover.
- **On-the-fly environment creation**
  - The ability to create fast, cost-effective environments was rolled out within 6 weeks, ready for developers to leverage. This also proved our potential to deploy into client spaces.
- **Migration of FrontEnd service from Kubernetes to CDN**
  - Migrating of the public-facing and platform frontend without 0 downtime.
  - Creation of new processes to better help developers test their changes.

**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 multiple 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.
  - Creating a process focusing on dependency management and rollback ability.
  - Facilitating a mono-repo approach.
- **Create 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 their migration from AWS to GCP
  - Smooth data migrations from RedShift to BigQuery

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## Work Experience

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

I was hired at Insurwave, a company developing a SaaS platform to modernise speciality insurance by connecting all participants. The company counts some of the biggest shipping companies in the world as its clients.
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 Azure Kubernetes Service Clusters
  - Cost-effective auto-scaling capabilities
  - Provisioning whole new environments within minutes
  - Decommissioning old systems
  - Integrating with third-party solutions such as SendGrid, Digicert, Twilio SMS, Aviatrix
  - Producing documentation for the proposal and ongoing use of any new aspect of the platform
- **CI/CD strategies via Azure DevOps**
  - Self-sufficient and high-speed process to best support developers
  - Defining a structured and effective automated test process
  - 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 capabilities, along with rotation of all access keys
  - Backup and restore capabilities
- **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**
  - Service mesh monitoring via Kiali/Prometheus
  - Cluster, Microservice and Azure resource monitoring via Grafana
  - Application monitoring + alerting via App Insights and Sentry
- **Networking configuration**
  - Istio service mesh implementation
  - VPN setup for internal services
- **Data analytics functionality**
  - Rollout and implementation using Zoho analytics
  - ETL functionality to transform data using Python
- **Disaster recovery processes**
  - Ensuring these are high-speed and cost-efficient
  - Active/Passive implementation
- **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, where I liaised with stakeholders to gather and then implement requirements, creating solutions for all issues presented and became the primary resource for the newly implemented toolset, involving:

- **Improving development strategy**
  - Defining development approach, including orchestrating the adoption of git, alongside DevOps and Agile methodologies
  - Definition of branch policies to ensure required approvals and governances are adhered to
  - Automating tasks within the business via coding/scripting
- **Automation testing integration**
  - Conversion of Unit test framework and integration along with SonarCloud in CI Builds
  - Integration/implementation of an in-house automation test framework
- **Ensuring a smoother, more regulated release strategy**
  - Definition and rollout of CI/CD Builds, pipelines/routes to live, and all required approvals
  - Shortened build and deployment cycle by 25%, resulting in leaner releases
- **Ensuring the adoption of new software/methodologies**
  - Training for 250+ users across the organisation for new approaches to testing and development

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## Work Experience

**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
- Recognised as Sparta Global's employee of the month, 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.

## Skills

- **IaaS -** Azure, GCP, Kubernetes, Docker, Ansible, Helm, ARM, Istio, Terraform
- **Azure Resources -** Scale Sets, Virtual Networks, Cosmos, ServiceBus, Log Analytics, Redis, Storage Accounts, Azure PostgreSQL, and more
- **Azure DevOps** - I'd consider myself an Expert in all aspects of Azure DevOps, especially in building and deploying
- **Programming Language**s - Python, Java, C#/.NET, Ruby, Haskell
- **Testing Frameworks** - Selenium, Cucumber, MSTest, NUnit, RSpec, and Capybara
- **Web Languages** - HTML, CSS, JavaScript, JQuery, and SASS
- **Databases** - SQL, Cosmos, Postgres, and SSMS
- PowerShell and Bash
- **Source Control** - Git, Azure Repos, TFS, SVN
- APIs
- Agile and Scrum
- **IDEs** - Visual Studio Code, Visual Studio, Eclipse, and PowerShell ISE
- **Operating Systems used** - Windows, macOS, and Linux

## 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*