<u>Curriculum Vitae - Samuel Watson</u>

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Personal profile:

Established and ambitious DevOps/Platform Engineer interested in innovation and cutting-edge technology. Experienced with working in an Agile project team delivering quality assured software continuously. Proficiency in a wide range of tool/technologies including AWS, Ansible and Terraform. Programming ability in Python and Java.

MSc in Cognitive Neuroscience from York University and an upper second (2:1) BSc Psychology degree at Portsmouth University.

Great team player, enthusiastic, responsible, and adaptable with an aptitude for logical thinking and analysis. Strong work ethos and take great personal pride in delivering quality work on time. Enjoyed and thrived working in multiple different environments and have always received excellent feedback.

Interpersonal & Technical Skills:

*__Bold__ indicates high level of proficiency

- Programming: Python, Java, R & SQL
- DevOps tools:
    - API: **VSCode Thunder Client**, Postman
    - Authentication: Keycloak, **Auth0**
    - Certificate Authority: **DigiCert** & Let's Encrypt
    - CI/CD: **Azure DevOps**, **Jenkins** & **GitLab**
    - Cloud Services: **AWS** & **Azure**
    - Collaboration: Teams, **Jira**, Confluence & Kanban
    - Configuration: **Ansible**, **Terraform**, Chef & Puppet
    - Containerisation: **Docker**
    - Container Orchestration**: Docker-compose & Kubernetes**
    - Databases: CosmosDB & PostgreSQL
    - Data Storage: **Azure Storage**, Nexus & **AWS S3**
    - DNS: **Azure DNS** & **GoDaddy**
    - IDE: **VSCode,** Intellij & Atom
    - Monitoring & Alerting: ELK stack, Grafana, Prometheus, cAdvisor, Graylog, Azure Application Insights, Sentry & Kiali
    - Security: Defect-Dojo
    - Version control: Git/GitHub/**GitLab & Azure DevOps**
    - Virtualisation: Vagrant & Oracle
- Team-work/Leadership: Agile & Scrum methodologies
- Time management
- Problem Solving
- Data Analysis: SPSS
- Written and Verbal communication

Professional Experience:

Sparta Global: 2019 – 2020

Summary:

Crash course in a wide range of DevOps practises and related skills, both interpersonal and technical.

Achievements:

- Used Python to create web-based applications and connected these with databases.
- Configured multiple virtual environments in which apps or databases were run on.
- Automated testing of software using Jenkins and only when it passed the appropriate tests would the changes be merged onto the relevant GitHub repo.
- Created n-tier architecture using AWS, including database replica sets, autoscaling for the application instances and an ELK stack for monitoring and visualising the data.
- Presented project work to prospective clients.

CGI: 2020 – 2022

Summary:

Worked in an Agile Scrum team consisting of developers, testers, support engineers and DevOps Engineers. The product was a java-based application for data transferral - backed up by a multitude of containerised services. As DevOps Engineer on the project the role involved providing the platform for the developers to achieve the most efficient and quality-assured deliveries of working software within the time constraints. Utilised Ansible, Jenkins and GitLab to deliver CI/CD pipelines and thus increased the efficiency of development work. AWS was the chosen cloud service provider on the project, for which I was admin, and multiple services were used (EC2, S3, IAM, Route53, VPC). Tools used for the application itself were Accumulo, Hadoop, PostgresSQL, Camel, NiFi, MiNiFi, Kafka, Nexus, MinIO, Keycloak, LDAP and KIE.

Achievements:

- Led the DevOps aspect of the project and pair-programmed with developers to enhance knowledge sharing and promote a cross-functional team with t-shaped skills.
- Responsible for the delivery of multiple agile 'features' - involved working closely with a product owner (client) to outline their ambition and then ensuring that goal was delivered to a high standard.
    - Consistently received 9+/10 from clients on satisfaction reviews.
- Automated many labour-intensive manual tasks to help improve the efficiency of the team.
    - "His work on automating the deployment of ORAC via Jenkins was superb and has helped the developers save lots of time!" - (Developer).
- Completed training and certifications in relevant tools/methodologies
    - Java Programming using the Eclipse IDE (QAJAVAECL).
    - SAFe for Teams (CGISAFTeams).
    - AWS Cloud Practitioner certified.
    - AWS SysOps and AWS DevOps courses.
- Achieved "exceeded expectations" in all performance reviews.

Insurwave: 2023 – Present

Summary:

Took this role at a start-up company as I sought a challenge and wanted to work on more green field projects which would allow me to work with cutting edge technology and influence the direction of certain parts of the platform. The tech stack was vastly different, and I had to adapt to using Azure and Kubernetes instead of AWS and docker-compose. The product is an Insurance asset tracking & management tool with a React frontend and backed by a wide range of .NET microservices. This is all hosted on a Kubernetes cluster with a multitude of networking tools (Istio, load balancer, traffic manager). AI was integrated into the platform and I was the head of relationship with the 3rd party vendor (Xceptor) who provided us with the data automation platform, therefore I had to liaise with them to get their SaaS solution running smoothly on our Azure environment. I was also involved in introducing Terraform into our platform and replacing the traditionally used ARM templates to deploy our Azure infrastructure.

Achievements:

- Adapted quickly to using a vastly different tech stack whilst also further improving my proficiency in Ansible.
- Helped migrate Insurwave's public facing website (https://insurwave.com/) inhouse after having issues with the one hosted on Wordpress. This involved the implementation of a brand-new tool on the platform (Azure Static Web App) to host the Next.js frontend application.
- Implemented numerous CI/CD solutions, including for the deployment of the public website application to preview environments when pull requests were created on the application's repo.
- Led the platform team in all aspects of the AI integration and public website migration.
- Acted as the face of the company in meetings with clients and 3rd party vendors.

Core Skills/Experience:

DevOps

Career in DevOps began with a 10-week course at Sparta Global, becoming a certified DevOps engineer. Taught a wide range of relevant skills including agile/scrum methodologies, presentation ability and time/task management. Created/managed SQL databases, developed software in Python and implemented CI-CD pipelines. Automated processes with Jenkins, containerised and virtualised with docker and vagrant respectively, configured and deployed infrastructure with ansible and chef and used Git/GitHub for source control. Implemented n-tier architecture on AWS with replica sets, autoscaling and an ELK stack to visualise and monitor the data.

Experience from Sparta Global provided the springboard to land a job as a DevOps Engineer at CGI. Promoted twice over a 2-year period and became the lead in this department. Primarily working with Ansible, AWS, Jenkins, VSCode, Jira and GitLab on a day-to-day basis. Role involved providing the platform for the developers by "automating all things". Completed a training course in Java to allow me to assist the team with software development. Security and compliance were of upmost importance of the project and therefore encrypting data was essential. Ansible was used to mint certificates and deploy configuration that enabled TLS of the various services on the project.

Further increased my experience and knowledge in the DevOps/Platform engineering space by joining Insurwave; a tech focused start-up company. Apart from also using Ansible as the primary IaC tool, this role involved upskilling in numerous technologies including Kubernetes, Helm, Azure, Auth0, Kiali, Sentry, Flagsmith, Digicert and many more. This role has allowed me to become an established engineer who is confident in my ability to delivery value to any DevOps or Platform team.

Leadership

Experience in leading DevOps direction on a project and acting as a senior member of the team - inducting new joiners and mentoring junior members. Naturally take to leadership, leading study groups at university to deliver good quality results on time despite disparate aspirations within the team. Personal achievement of being captain of childhood rugby team (Painswick RFC).

Problem solving

Worked with a client product owner to find solutions to their problems. An essential skill in the innovative technology industry and something that has been personally honed by working with a client to help guide the direction of DevOps on the project.

Charity work

Volunteered for 3 years at the Royal International Air Tattoo for which great feedback was received and led to an offer of a paid part time job for a 4th year.

People skills and working as part of a team

Formed good relationships with co-workers which created synergy on the project. Keen rugby player and this has given me a deep understanding of the core values which contribute to any successful team whether in sport or business. While at Portsmouth University I played for the rugby first XV and this was a very competitive environment in which we used a large range of team building and personal development activities to help us improve.