
DAVID COLLOM

Building Scalable, Secure and High-Performant Platforms with Kubernetes
Cloud-Native Specialist | Homelabber at Heart | Always Learning & Building
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// ABOUT ME

Experienced Platform Engineer with over a decade of experience in infrastructure automation and platform design, including 8+ years of deep expertise in architecting and operating Kubernetes across cloud and on-premises environments. Focused on infrastructure as code at scale, using Terraform to build robust environments that accelerate delivery and reduce drift. Demonstrated thought leadership through presentations at industry conferences (e.g., KubeCon, ArgoCon), sharing insights on Kubernetes cost optimisation and platform reliability, and actively contributed to open-source community tools. Eager to leverage unique technical skills and leadership abilities to drive success in future platforms, ensuring high-quality services and rapid delivery in a fast-paced environment.

// SKILLS

Languages / DBs

Go, Python, Ruby, Redis, MySQL, PostgreSQL

Frameworks

Controller Runtime, OpenAPI / Swagger, Rails, Grape, KOPF, Sinatra

Applications / Toolkits

Kubernetes, Terraform, Docker, Chef, Git, Terragrunt, Nginx, Apache, HAProxy, Argo Project, Argo CD, Flux, Ansible, HashiCorp Vault, Consul

Observability

Prometheus, OpenTelemetry, Grafana, InfluxDB, Thanos, VictoriaMetrics

Cloud Services / Providers

Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Digital Ocean, Amazon AWS

Other

Team Leadership, Mentoring and Coaching, Open-source Contributions, Issue Triage and Planning, System Design and Architecture, Pragmatic Problem Solving

// EXPERIENCES

Staff Solutions Engineer Jetstack Consult (part of CyberArk) (Remote (UK)) October 2020 - Present

- Engaged in high-stakes client interactions, cultivating strong relationships with engineers, project management teams, and C-suite executives.
- Led diverse teams across various time zones, promoting collaboration and success.
- Spearheaded the development of extended Kubernetes deployments and platforms, thereby enhancing developer speed and reducing time to market.
- Developed several custom controllers/operators to enhance and integrate with a wide variety of tools and systems for customers' specific needs.
- Presented at ArgoCon 2023 to an audience of over 200 individuals.
- Presented at the Cloud Native Computing and Kubernetes Conference in 2023, showcasing expertise in Kubernetes and cloud-native technologies.
- Orchestrated demos and discussions at the Cloud Native Computing and Kubernetes Conference in 2022.
- Contributed pull requests to significant projects of various software languages, from community tooling, documentation and code contributions.
- Conceptualised and architected internal and external training platforms to optimise course development and delivery, significantly reducing toil and increasing the attendees' overall experience.

Senior Infrastructure Engineer Credit Karma (London, UK) July 2019 - October 2020

- Oversaw the management, maintenance, and enhancement of Kubernetes clusters and core services.
 - Automated infrastructure deployment with Terraform and Terragrunt.
 - Formulated capacity planning strategies and predictive alerting mechanisms.
 - Directed service mesh infrastructure management, leading migration efforts.
 - Contributed to the launch of a new independent platform on Google Cloud Platform.
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Infrastructure Platform Engineer (Kubernetes) / Senior DevOps Engineer Sky Betting and Gaming (Leeds, UK) June 2017 - July 2019

- Administered several On-Premises and Cloud Kubernetes clusters.
- Instituted automated patching and reporting mechanisms, significantly reducing engineering time and service disruption.
- Established availability zones for On-Premises clusters to enhance resilience.
- Developed a Custom Cloud Controller for Kubernetes for on-premises node provisioning.
- Utilised Terraform for streamlined automated deployment management.
- Collaborated with Site Reliability Engineers and DevOps teams to elevate service quality.
- Reduced operational overhead by automating several previously manual tasks, significantly reducing toil and human error.

Senior Software Developer William Hill (Leeds, UK) February 2016 - June 2017

- Managed, maintained and planned workloads across multiple disciplines, development, security and engineering teams.
- Oversaw performance management and took part in candidate interviewing.
- Provided Mentorship and support for software and systems engineers across various levels.
- Championed migrating a monolithic application to a Service-Oriented Architecture/Microservices, reducing delivery from 6 months to weeks/days.
- Designed and implemented
- Provided software solutions to visualise and support the automation of firewalls, along with improving the approval process between engineering, Networks and InfoSec teams.
- Oversaw several Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) processes, ensuring adherence to best practices.
- Lead several Proof of Concepts for large-scale Container Orchestration tooling (Kubernetes, Mesos/Marathon, Docker Swarm).

Software Developer William Hill (Leeds, UK) May 2014 - February 2016

- Delivered a customised Platform as a Service (PaaS) solution, enhancing development efficiency and utilising VMware vSphere and existing on-premise solutions.
- Delivered an automated containerised infrastructure product using Mesos/Marathon.
- Conducted highly-rated training courses with exceptional feedback from participants.

Software Developer City Electrical Factors (Durham, UK) June 2012 - May 2014

- Developed and maintained a bespoke E-commerce platform, enhancing the online shopping experience for customers.
- Implemented a custom Content Management System (CMS) to streamline content updates and management.
- Created a custom CRM system to improve customer relationship management and sales processes.
- Developed a custom ERP system to integrate various business processes, improving operational efficiency.
- Designed and implemented a custom reporting system to provide insights into business performance and customer behaviour.
- Designed, supported and implemented various automation tooling to assist in hosting new and existing applications.

Developer & System Administrator Visualsoft eCommerce (Stockton-on-Tees, UK) August 2008 - June 2012

- Oversaw server provisioning for over 400 high-traffic eCommerce websites.
- Maintained, secured and patched security vulnerabilities.
- Executed PCI compliance standards to bolster security.

// ACHIEVEMENTS & CERTIFICATIONS

Speaker: Yorkshire DevOps - GKE Overview and History 2023

Speaker: KubeCon + CloudNativeCon North America 2023 2023 Watch (https://youtu.be/6gtj7pwuWZs?si=jv9ry-GfalKS9_op)

Speaker: CNCF-Hosted Co-Located Events Europe 2023: Argo Con 2023 Watch (https://youtu.be/skOTc_evJnw?si=u5g-xyetfMt_Bb_d)

CS-169.1x: Software as a Service 2013