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Sam Raza

Platform / SRE Engineer

Summary

Lead Platform & DevOps engineer with experience in Infrastructure, DevOps and Reliability, and Platform engineering space. I have a history of working within #bigdata, #advertising, #insurance, #finance, #observability and #lifesciences verticals. Over the last 10 years I've honed my skills in building systems and processes that empower development and platform teams to focus on delivering the products and services.

With my hands-on approach to solve complex problems in team dynamics, systems engineering and software development space, I have come to appreciate the potential of technical and cultural transformation which has always resulted in motivated and efficient development teams. I believe unified and streamlined teams deliver velocity and that in and of itself can be the difference between life and death for many companies and projects.

Key projects

Finance, UK: Multiple projects, Platform engineering for a Financial Crime and Anti-money laundering platform, High performance computing (HPC) pipelines for Risk team on Google Cloud Platform.

Life Sciences, EU: Delivery of GxP compliant Azure services as part of Cloud Centre of Excellence (CCoE) and platform engineering team. GitHub actions on Azure.

Wealth Management, US/Global: Leading digital transformation on Azure platform, CI/CD pipelines using Azure DevOps and SDLC orchestration with application teams.

Observability, US/Global: Leading Azure tenant management using IaC tools, Infrastructure management and SRE on-call activities for a leading multi-cloud Observability platform.

Insurance, UK/Global: Leading Digital transformation, infrastructure and application migration activities from on-premises to Azure platform.

E-Commerce, UK: On-Prem to Azure migration planning, POC and prod. implementation of Blue-Green deployments using Azure cloud, Azure Frontdoor, Octopus deploy and AZDO.

Key technologies I have worked with:

Clouds & Hyperscalers: Azure, AWS, GCP, Hetzner, Proxmox, OVH, Hostinger, DigitalOcean
Operating systems: RHEL, Debian, Windows Server, Active Directory, Intune, Azure EntraID
Virtualisation & Container orchestration: KVM, Hyper-V, VMWare, ESXi, Linux containers, Docker, Rancher, Kubernetes (AKS, GKE, EKS) | **IaC & Config management:** Terraform, Packer, Bash, Ansible
Networking: Networks/Subnets, TCP/IP, VPN, BGP, Wireshark | **GitOps-CI/CD:** Github actions, Gitlab pipelines, Bamboo, Octopus deploy, Jenkins, CircleCI, Teamcity, Helm, Kustomize, Flux, ArgoCD
Internal Developer Portals: Backstage and Azure Integration, Cortex & port.io | **Databases & KV stores and event streaming:** MS SQL Server, Mysql/PostgreSQL, MariaDb, Redis, Cassandra, etcd, Apache Kafka | **Languages:** Bash, Python, GoLang

Work experience

Noetech - Self-Employed

2023 - PRESENT

Using my 10+ years of SME & Enterprise experience as a hands-on Consulting Engineer to lead customer teams towards successful outcomes.

Noetech OSS - TERRAPREP - LEAD ARCHITECT & DEVELOPER (Golang)

2023 - PRESENT

A cross-platform command-line tool that helps users configure and deploy terraform & opentofu remote backends supporting multiple cloud platforms. I am solely responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of the tool and its SDLC pipelines. The releases are fully automated and triggered upon automated feature testing and git tag publish. The tool is available at www.terraprep.xyz

Rackspace Technology - LEAD CONSULTING RELIABILITY ENGINEER

2018 - 2025

Led platform engineering initiatives for 10+ enterprise customers across Azure/AWS/GCP, delivering GitOps-driven automation and self-service capabilities that accelerated time-to-value, delivering digital transformation projects prioritising GitOps, automation, and self-service within professional services.

Key leadership Responsibilities (multiple enterprise projects):

- Collaborating with senior stakeholders and product owners to build delivery roadmaps and help orchestrate capacity planning following scrum / agile methodologies.
- Leading and collaborating with on-site and remote IT/DevOps/SRE teams for enterprise-scale infrastructure projects.
- Collaborating with application teams to migrate services to-from hybrid environments.
- Helping build Cloud Centre of Excellence services for enterprise organisations.
- Mentoring teams through pairing sessions, feedback loops, and growth strategies.
- Collaborating with DevSecOps, InfoSec & CISO teams to integrate SIEM & CSPM tools.
- Partnered with Security & Compliance stakeholders across multiple regulated verticals (Finance, Insurance, Life Sciences) to implement audit-ready controls aligned with SOC2, FedRAMP, GxP, and ISO27001 frameworks.

Key hands-on Responsibilities (multiple projects):

- Designed and standardised CI/CD pipelines across multiple enterprise engagements, reducing release lead time and enabling faster iteration cycles for product teams.
- GitOps implementation via GitHub, GitLab, Octopus deploy, chatbots, developer evangelism.
- Containerising applications with Docker & Kubernetes-based microservices.
- Deployment and Management of traditional as well as containerised microservices using Terraform, Helm, Kustomize, Flux & ArgoCD.
- Configuration management using Ansible, Puppet, Chef and Bash.
- Monitoring and scaling of microservices on Hyperscaler and on-premises environments with Grafana, Prometheus, and ELK | ELF stack and native cloud services.
- Developing custom DevOps tooling in Bash, PowerShell, Python, and GoLang.
- Setting up Internal Developer Platforms for self-service.

Pancentric Digital - SENIOR DEVOPS ENGINEER

2018 - 2018

Client-facing Ops stakeholder involved in Greenfield/Brownfield project deployments, infrastructure, architecture, and DevOps implementation.

Key Responsibilities:

- Infrastructure Architect in technical meetings, guiding strategy and design.
- Managing Kubernetes-based microservices deployment, monitoring, and scaling.
- Provisioning with Terraform as IaC and config management via Puppet/Ansible.
- Driving Automated-Ops culture through chatbots, tooling, and infrastructure evangelism.
- Ensuring ISO27001 compliance, security audits, and clearances.

Comcast | FreeWheel - DEVOPS ENGINEER

2015 - 2018

Client-facing engineer responsible for platform engineering, infrastructure management and DevOps engineering for a popular product in adtech.

Key Responsibilities:

- Designed & automated hybrid cloud software delivery with solutions architects.
- Set up monitoring frameworks, alert integrations, RCAs, and retrospectives.
- Automated CI/CD pipelines and release cycles with Scrum Masters.
- Developed infrastructure automation using Shell, Python, and Nodejs.
- Created and maintained ChatOps in Slack using Hubot & Nodejs.
- Led IT audits for internal and external clients.
- Assisted ITOps/NetOps in technical troubleshooting and downtime resolution.

import.io - TECHNICAL SUPPORT ANALYST

2014 - 2015

Second line support role responsible for documentation, data aggregation, and internal tooling development (Python) as part of the User Success team.

Key Responsibilities:

- Handling 2nd/3rd line technical issues and API support.
- Collaborating with engineers to build tooling based on user feedback.
- Developing data delivery PoCs for clients.
- Working with data scientists on aggregation and insights.

Education

B.A. - Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan

(2006) - Literature, Computer science and Business operations

Before graduation, I went on to do apprenticeship in business operations while completing my computer science course in college. After graduation, I moved to the UK where I helped manage IT Operations of a publishing house until my role at import.io which is where I found my keen interest in automation, engineering, DevOps and solving technical problems.