

Corné Bester

Profile

Engineer, architect and hands-on lead with expertise in distributed systems and agile software development.

- *Focus on infrastructure architecture, performance, availability, security, and the delivery aspects of SaaS applications.*
- *10+ years in cloud-native and hybrid SaaS software development/operations*
- *13 years in real-time market data distribution/ telecommunications/data centre operations*

Employment History

Engineering Manager - Cloud Infrastructure at xChange Solutions GmbH, Cape Town

June 2023

Achievements:

- Increased the responsiveness of our web application by decreasing the latency for Chinese customers connecting via the Great Firewall of China. Requests that had taken up to 5 seconds before were now 280 milliseconds.
- Write and collaborate around technical documentation. Architectural decision records(ADR), requests for comments (RFC) and diagrams
  - Production database access and permissions policy for staff(human) vs. machine-to-machine(m2m)
  - Geo routing and CDN /proxy flow via partner
  - Kafka topics access and tools
- Ensure infrastructure excellence using the AWS well-architected framework.
- Cost optimization project (ongoing). Realized a double-digit percentage reduction in our AWS and Datadog monthly spend
- Evolved our Incident Management process and domain ownership to align better with the engineering organization and business requirements.
- Improved our JIRA project workflow, screens, fields and transitions to streamline the creation, tracking and reporting of issues
- Owned the Bitbucket to Gitlab migration engineering organization-wide
- Improved legacy BI tool(reDash) performance and security
- S3 bucket access audit using Athena and S3 logs. Security posture analysis, harden.
- Transition my team through a layoff, reprioritize projects and ad-hoc work.

Details

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Links

Linkedin
GitHub

Skills

AWS (Amazon Web Services)

Terraform

Linux

Shell scripting

Docker & docker swarm

Kubernetes and ECS

RabbitMQ, Kafka

DataDog, NewRelic, Prometheus, Grafana

CICD / GitLab / GitHub

Cloudflare

Python

SQL & NoSQL

Site Reliability Engineering (SRE)

Team management

DevOps Champion

Leadership, strategy and decision making

FinOps & budgeting

Problem-solving and analytical skills

Languages

English

Afrikaans

Team Lead Infrastructure at xChange Solutions GmbH, Cape Town

March 2022 — May 2023

Achievements:

- Build an Agile, internal cloud platform engineering team. The hiring, coaching, mentoring, reviews, and career development. (From 2 consultants to 5 employed cloud engineers.)
- Implement team workload prioritization and balance between project and ad-hoc requests/problems/incidents.
- Project managed the Docker Swarm(on EC2) to EKS migration project. Included the separation of production and test environment shared resources. E.g. PaaS resources like AmazonMQ/RabbitMQ. (We had noisy neighbour incidents.)
- Scaled our internal developer platform(IDP) based on kubernetes and GitOps(fluxCD) to accommodate 9+ teams and 22+ test environments
- CI speed improvements using self-hosted runners and AWS autoscaling groups/launch templates
- Onboard, integrated and vendor managed the following third-party vendors:
  - Confluent Cloud for Kafka
  - Auth0 for Identity Management
  - Terraform Cloud/Hashicorp Cloud Platform as state backend and for infrastructure workflow with GitLab/Bitbucket
  - Zesty
- Hardened infrastructure security across our AWS estate
- Implement a proactive third-party software update lifecycle process. E.g. kubernetes API, operators, terraform versions and providers.
- Set 2023 Cloud infrastructure/platform strategy with the Head of Engineering and CTO.

Senior Cloud Infrastructure Architect at RapidDeploy, Cape Town

February 2020 — February 2022

Achievements:

- Architected the high-availability(HA) infrastructure for a new high-volume streaming product
- Architected and implemented an aggregated streaming application log solution using Azure EventHubs, Azure FunctionApps and DataDog logging
- Created Azure DevOps CICD pipelines for serverless functions
- Provided 3rd-level SRE support and troubleshooting for performance issues with messaging, kubernetes(AKS)
- Championed DevOps culture
- Mentored junior infrastructure, DevOps, security and SRE engineers
- Contributed to technical documentation and diagrams
- Onboard all new engineering staff with training sessions on infrastructure and tooling.

Hobbies

Electronics, IoT.
Lego
Reading
Woodworking

Cloud Infrastructure Engineer at RapidDeploy, Cape Town

May 2019 — February 2020

Achievements:

- Created the infrastructure as code(IaC) blueprint for our SaaS platform across Azure Public and Azure Government(sovereign) clouds
- Introduced naming conventions and tagging standards for all resources for observability and reporting
- Scaled production environments to multiple US states. Performance and governance reasons
- Introduced and operationalized Datadog as an observability and alerting tool for infrastructure metrics
- Migrated from Azure DNS and CDN to Cloudflare
- Advanced application and infrastructure troubleshooting and problem-solving

Head of IT DevOps at StatPro, Cape Town

February 2015 — April 2019

- Technical leadership and infrastructure architecture for public cloud environments, integration with on-premise datacenters
- A bridge between IT, multiple Development teams and InfoSec for integration projects of existing & new, cloud-first products
- Buildout of DevOps practices & culture for multiple development and operations teams
- APM (Application Performance Management) and Log aggregation
- Cloud cost tracking, reporting and optimization
- Operations, standards, process documentation
- Security and Governance for an ISO 27001, SSAE16 and ISAE3402-certified company

IT Team Leader, South Africa at StatPro, Cape Town

December 2011 — August 2015

- Providing first-class technology support to various business units and external clients.
- Ensuring uptime over critical systems recommending upgrades and deploying fixes to support business
- Providing third-line support including, monitoring, troubleshooting and improving networking, storage systems, VMware and Citrix deployments over two data centres and multiple office sites
- Collaborating with external suppliers, negotiating contracts, and project financial planning.
- Documenting, monitoring and policing technology deployments to SAS70 or ISO27001 standards.
- Ensuring that DRP/BCP processes are regularly tested, relevant reports are produced, and actions taken.
- Ensure that security processes on critical systems and resources are maintained appropriately.

Engineer (various positions/levels) at Reuters / ThomsonReuters, Cape Town

March 1998 — November 2011

Education

ND: ENGINEERING: ELECTRICAL, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Cape Town

2003

Senior Certificate, Brackenfell High School

1996

Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional Certification

November 2017

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate Certification

April 2016

VCAP-DCD5 (VMware Certified Advanced Professional – Data Center Design) Certification

May 2015

VCP5 (VMware Certified Professional on vSphere 5) Certification

February 2012

ITIL V3 Foundation Certificate in IT Service Management Certification

December 2010

VCP4 (VMware Certified Professional on vSphere 4) Certification

January 2010

VCP (VMware Certified Professional on Infrastructure 3) Certification

July 2009

Financial management for non-financial Managers, University of Stellenbosch Business School

2008

Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Certification

March 2001

Other interests

- Machine learning /AI specifically computer vision
- Data Engineering
- Sustainability
- Robotics
- IIoT

Keywords

platform engineer

platform lead

devops engineer

devops lead

infrastructure engineer

infrastructure lead

site reliability engineer

site reliability lead