

PAUL SWEENEY

MEng CEng MIET

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A powerful combination of computing, organisational and commercial skills, with a consistent track record of quality delivery to time and budget.

- Proven ability to rapidly adapt to new technologies & assume the role of a technical authority
- Customer-facing skills from on-site technical implementations, to board room results presentations
- 40+ years experience of computer systems, architecture and development

Professional

Accreditation

- **CEng MIET** as a result of IEE appraisal of a 12-year personal portfolio of training and experience
- **MEng in Electrical/Electronic Engineering** from Imperial College London (1988-1992)

Previous technical qualifications

- **Linux foundation CKA** (2021) – Certified Kubernetes Administrator
- **IKM C# v4.0** (2012) – scored 99/100, 97% percentile of candidates
- **Microsoft MCAD** (2004) – C# development
- **Cisco CCNA** (2002) – Network appliance setup and management
- **Microsoft MCSE on NT4** (1999) – System administration on Windows

Community contribution highlights

- **KubeVela** – active slack and github community member and contributor of this CNCF project
- **Kube-Prometheus** – added documentation for migrating from legacy versions of kube-prom
- **Ansible-Role-Pi-K8S** – author of a bare metal full Kubernetes Ansible install to RPi4 clusters
- **EasyLife** – author of a null-tolerant C# Linq library published in Nuget
- **Octopus deploy** – Task template library PRs
- **Python v2.x** – Submitted a core bug repro for a memory leak when using custom finalisers
- Regular explainer documents and presentations for colleagues on various topics like Async/await deadlocks, SQL transaction handling, Kubernetes CFS/CGroup throttling, Functors/Monads

Personal

- British; Fit, lifelong non-smoker; Living in Sherborne, Dorset; Two children in 20s
- Own car, full clean driving licence, passed advanced and further driving tests for IAM
- School Education to A Level in Kent, bar three years in UK Sovereign Base Area, Episkopi, Cyprus
- 40+ years computing use from machine code & Sinclair ZX81 to cutting-edge DevOps technology
- Parent Governor of primary, Health & Safety brief for a new school building
- Parish Councillor for Bradley Stoke Town Council – £1.3m deposits, £300k pa turnover, introduced a rational system for assessment of grants to local organisations (£16k pa)
- Private Pilots Licence JAA-PPL(A)/SEP, 180 hours in the logbook
- Healthy eating; DIY; Scenic and social walking; Pickleball - DUPR rating 3.0-3.5

Career Timeline

Senior Developer and DevOps (Platform Engineering) SME Jan 2013 -Present TravelRepublic, a dnata Travel brand, part of the Emirates Group

An Online Travel Agent (OTA) but also an internal IT provider for all other dnata Travel brands.

Highly motivated, goes above and beyond to deliver... Appropriately questions approach to ensure maximum strategic alignment and suggests alternatives where applicable... Excellent stakeholder management and communication... Provides strong technical direction and is a technical authority for DevOps and tooling for the whole team.

Tim Needham, Director of Software Engineering, dnata Travel Group

Developed an automated booking cancellation system, later invaluable during the pandemic. Included creating a currency handling library to eliminate conversion issues in code, and refactoring core code to be unit-testable. Tackling tech debt, converted a large chunk of the core code from VB.NET to C#.

A regular participant in team "bridge calls" for software design, faultfinding or deep dives. Recognised as a key technical authority on our software estate. Established release management systems – department-wide comms channels, git branching approach and use of TeamCity Pipelines replacing robocopy. Became technical authority on our Octopus deploy system.

Took over the lead for our six self-managed Kubernetes clusters. Repurposing my home RPi K8S Ansible playbook to automate the bare-metal Kubernetes install process including Prometheus, Grafana and AlertManager output to Slack/Teams channels. Facilitated our blue/green upgrade & resilience approach.

Now in a formal DevOps (Platform Engineering) role, championed and created a "standard pipeline". This handles all builds and multi-cloud deploy to GKE or AKS as we adopted Azure DevOps as our company standard. Used by over 100 Linux and Windows workloads to date, the dev just adds a two-job ADO pipeline yaml file and a simplified KubeVela manifest file to their repo, eliminating the K8S learning curve.

Workloads using this also get "for free" Sonar analysis of code, unit-tests & coverage; Secret handling; PR sandbox deploys; Datadog instrumentation; and surfacing in a custom company Backstage IDP – giving the dynamic view of our software estate that has been missing and ending our "software catalog" spreadsheet.

Having taken the lead in migrating all repos from Bitbucket to ADO Repos, current work is to leverage the standard pipeline on the path to decommission TeamCity and GoCD pipelines, Octopus Deploy, and IIS hosts as we move to a unified cloud platform, with significant complexity and cost savings.

Keywords: C#, .NET, .NET Core, Kubernetes, K8S, KubeVela, Azure DevOps, ADO, Git, Docker, Linux, Ubuntu, Bash, Powershell, Ansible, Helm, Terraform, Crossplane, TeamCity, GoCD, Octopus Deploy, Scripting, Automation Datadog, Greylog, AKS, GKE, Prometheus, Grafana, Alertmanager, Teams, Slack, Jira, Confluence, BitBucket, ManageEngine, Backstage, IDP, DevOps, Platform Engineering, perplexity.ai, ollama, qdrant, flowise.

Software Development Lead Acumentive Ltd

Aug 2007-Jan 2013

A specialist Auto-ID (RFID, USID, Barcode) technology & software consultancy, providing solutions to the Logistics and Healthcare industries amongst others. A genuinely "Virtual" company, with employees working full time from home. Software Development and Hardware hands-on lead.

With a superb blend of skills in man-management, technical knowledge and pragmatism, he always strives to remove obstacles and let the consultants & engineers focus on the important tasks at hand

Clinton McCutcheon, Solutions Consultant, Acumentive Ltd

Keywords: C#, ASP.NET, .Net, WCF, Windows Mobile, Windows CE, Windows 7, Vista, XP, Windows Forms, Windows Service, MSSQL, Kiln/Mercurial/Hg, Agile, Scrum, Sprint, Kanban, Linq, Active RFID, Passive RFID, Barcode, USID, Wavetrend, Sonitor, CenTrak, Intermec, Cardax, GS1, TCP, UDP, IP, XML, XSLT, Multithreading, IIS, TDD, JQuery, Hosted Applications, Log4Net, Quartz, VMWare, Python, Dependency Injection, Consultancy

.NET E-Commerce Developer
Commercial Services, Kent County Council

Aug 2005-Aug 2007

A commercial division of the organisation charged with providing goods & services to other departments and bringing money into the council. Technical owner of the division's bespoke web shop software. Established departmental version control, config management, documentation and deployment systems.

Keywords: C#, ASP.NET, .NET, IIS, MSSQL, Windows, Strategix OneOffice, eCommerce, Punchout, Transparent Search, XML, XSLT, SOAP, Web Services, WSDL, Javascript, VB.NET, CVS, Wiki, SourceSafe, Integra, Agresso, @UK, Capita SIMS, Oracle I-Procurement

Lead Developer & Website Testing Consultant
SciVisum Ltd, Sittingbourne, Kent

Jan 2004-Jul 2005

Designed and developed a Python scriptable web journey, analysis and load testing engine. Used first version in load testing on a client site within 2 months of first source file creation. Established internal systems for version control, feature/bug tracking and documentation. Projects included client requirements capture, remote & on-site load testing for major household names, with results presentation to client technical staff, management and board members.

Keywords: Python, Red Hat Linux, MySQL, PHP, CVS, HTML, HTTP, ASP.NET, Multithreading, Web Testing, Load Testing, Stress Testing, TDD, PyUnit, eCommerce, Consultancy, C-Suite presentations

IT Systems Engineer (Advanced CCTV systems)

Apr 2003-Dec 2003

Astraguard Ltd, Sevenoaks, Kent (through my company Kolossi Consultants Ltd)

Multi-faceted hardware and software support of Linux-based systems for suppliers and integrators of custom Video & CCTV analysis, and Digital Video Recording systems at sites such as the Bank of England, Met Police, and High-Security prisons including Belmarsh.

Software Development Engineer
Viewgate Networks, Sevenoaks, Kent

Dec 1999-Aug 2002

Software Development and Project Management for telco and customer WAN infrastructure monitoring.

A highly methodical approach, with a strong focus on procedures designed to eliminate errors...

High quality maintainable code

Daniel Mack, Director of Advanced Technologies, Viewgate Networks

Keywords: C++, SNMP, CCNA, Cisco, WAN, QOS, CAR, MPLS, BGP, IPSEC, VPN, Unix, Solaris, RogueWave, STL, Rational, Purify, Quantify, RCS, UML, Project Management, Java, Awk, Grep, Csh, Ksh

Simulator Maintenance & Development Engineer

May 1996-Dec 1999

Magnox Electric plc, Oldbury Training Centre, South Glos.

Lead of two engineers charged with high availability management and enhancement of the computing hardware, software and infrastructure of two full-scope configurable nuclear power station control room simulators, and office LAN & training AV facilities.

Asked to return to do contracting work Jun 2003-Dec 2003 through my company Kolossi Consultants Ltd.

Paul achieves set deadlines which are within his control, despite considerably high workloads

Paul Griffiths, Simulator Operations Team Leader, Magnox Electric plc

Keywords: RealTime, Simulation, C, Fortran, PMSP, SCCS, Electronics, Hardware, LAN, Windows NT4, OS/2, Dec Alpha, XWindows, VMS, Project Management, Technical Authority, Budget Management

Control & Instrumentation Engineer

1989-1996

Nuclear Electric plc, Berkeley Technology Centre, Glos

Member of a Control and Instrumentation Project Engineering Group, working to BS5750 (now ISO9000) & BS5882 (Nuclear QA) for Magnox, AGR and PWR nuclear power stations.

Paul is a highly qualified engineer who is self-motivated and works to time and cost within the company framework.

John Large, Systems Engineering Team Leader, Magnox Electric plc