

Simon Witheridge
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Profile

A highly accomplished **Technical Leader** and SRE with over 10 years of experience driving large-scale DevOps and SRE transformations within high-growth, high-compliance environments. Proven success in defining global platform strategy, scaling resilient Kubernetes/EKS infrastructure, and championing secure-by-design practices aligned with ISO 27001 and SOC 2 requirements. Expert at building and leading high-performing engineering teams, fostering a culture of operational excellence, and leveraging IaC and GitOps to accelerate delivery. Seeking to leverage deep technical depth and strategic leadership to scale high-reliability, low-latency platforms in high-frequency trading environments.

Skills

- Platform Engineering & DevOps Strategy
- Kubernetes Operations (EKS, Cluster Management, Networking, Security) & CKA
- Infrastructure as Code (Terraform, IaC, GitOps)
- Multi-Cloud (AWS, GCP, Azure) & Distributed Systems
- Observability (SLIs/SLOs/SLAs, Monitoring, Tracing, Incident Response)
- CI/CD, Security, ISO 27001/SOC 2 Compliance & Secure-by-Design
- Self-Service Tooling, Standardized Workflows, and Developer Productivity
- Strategic Leadership, Mentoring, and Scaling High-Performing Global Teams
- Cloud Cost Efficiency & Optimization
- Programming (Python, Go, PowerShell, Bash)
- Reliability Engineering & Low-Latency Systems
- Proficient with Claude, Codex and Antigravity

Previous Employment

September 2023 - Current, Cisco Systems, Technical Leader

As a **Technical Leader** driving strategic platform initiatives for Duo Security, I lead and mentor a distributed engineering team to deliver resilient, high-performing platforms. I am responsible for executive stakeholder management, successfully pitching and executing roadmap strategies that prioritize secure-by-design practices and maintain strict compliance with ISO 27001 and SOC 2 standards. My leadership centers on driving Infrastructure as Code (IaC) and automation as core strategic initiatives, scaling platform capability while fostering a culture of continuous improvement and operational excellence across the organization.

December 2021 – September 2023 , Daemon Solutions, Senior Consultant

As a Senior Consultant, I led technical delivery and architecture for high-profile client engagements, notably scaling a major UK supermarket's **Kubernetes (EKS)**-based Platform-as-a-Service offering. I drove **GitOps** and **Infrastructure as Code (Terraform)** adoption for complex, multi-cloud infrastructure builds. I managed executive-level stakeholder relationships and provided technical mentorship to client engineering teams, emphasizing standardization and robust, repeatable deployment workflows.

May 2019 – December 2021, Expedia Group, Senior Software Engineer

As a Senior Engineer, I was responsible for leading my team-members by example, providing a supportive environment to enable them to deliver technical excellence and develop as engineers, while also leading and contributing to the team's technical delivery. I was heavily involved in high-level planning for our roadmap and in the design of projects from an early

stage, ensuring alignment with long-term strategic objectives. I championed a Shift-Left environment, supporting development teams in their journey to “run what they build”.

October 2016 – May 2019, The Walt Disney Company, Senior Platform Engineer

In this role, I spearheaded organizational modernization by leading training to upskill traditional teams into cloud-native/DevOps practices and creating standardized engineering workflows, significantly improving developer productivity. I designed and implemented **Observability frameworks** (SLIs, SLOs, Monitoring, Alerting, Incident Response) across **multi-cloud (AWS/Azure)** and on-premise environments, which significantly improved system reliability, uptime, and post-incident analysis. My responsibilities included maintaining secure and scalable application platforms, focusing on high availability and microservices support.

October 2015 – October 2016, Forest Technologies Ltd, DevOps and Automation Consultant

I drove DevOps adoption and automation for a diverse portfolio of major global clients, including large international retailers and major financial institutions. Key achievements included advocating and embedding DevOps best practices, cultural change, and knowledge transfer across client organizations. I executed automation projects, including **IaC** and scalable **CI/CD pipelines**, for complex, multi-technology environments, which required rapid on-the-job expertise acquisition. This provided crucial exposure to **diverse global teams and working cultures**, foundational to managing distributed teams.

June 2014 – October 2015, Jadu Ltd, Software Engineer

Served as a full-stack engineer and platform owner, providing foundational experience in key DevOps practices. I managed development infrastructure (Openstack, Vagrant) and maintained **Continuous Integration pipelines (Jenkins)**, effectively bridging the gap between development and operations. Additionally, I delivered features and bug fixes for in-house applications, working across PHP, Linux, and Windows environments.

October 2012 – June 2014, De Montfort University, Part-time Lecturer

Developed and presented technical teaching materials across multiple modules (Mobile Games, HTML/Javascript, SQL/Databases), demonstrating strong knowledge transfer and communication skills essential for organizational training.

June 2011 – October 2012, Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory - Scientific Programmer

Programmed applications (C, C++, Perl) for complex data processing related to European Space Agency contracts. Served as a Systems Administrator, managing local networks and carrying out maintenance on RAID arrays, underscoring early experience in high-stakes systems and administration.

September 2009 - September 2010, Earth and Planetary Remote Sensing Laboratory (Placement Student)

Wrote applications to process Satellite RADAR Altimeter data for research submitted to organizations like the European Space Agency, demonstrating strong initial technical capability in scientific programming.

Academic Record and Certifications

- Undergraduate Degree (BSc)
 - Computer Games Programming: Upper Second Class
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect (Associate)
- Certified Kubernetes Administrator