

Simon Emms

Software Engineer, Technical Leader, Solutions Designer

Based in Shropshire, UK
+447736 650058
simon@simonemms.com

An engineer with a wealth of experience in technical leadership, the software development life cycle and implementing a DevOps culture in an existing team. With over 15 years of experience building highly scalable software, I can quickly grasp even the most poorly documented software and communicate solutions to appropriate stakeholders. I am experienced in mentoring team members, building up their confidence and skills and providing technical direction to the whole team.

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

See simonemms.com/profile for full work history

Konstruct, Washington DC — Senior Platform Engineer

JUN 2024 - PRESENT

AWS, Azure, Civo, Developer Relations, GCP, GitOps, Go, Kubernetes, Mentoring

- Worked to improve the reliability of the Kubefirst platform across all supported cloud providers.
- Implemented the Kubefirst platform on Azure.
- Spent time with the community to understand different use-cases and adapt the platform to different requirements.
- Recruited new engineers to the team and worked with them in the early stage to ensure their success.

Bohemia Interactive Simulation, Prague — Lead Platform Engineer

JUN 2023 - JUN 2024

Leadership

Led the development of an Internal Developer Platform for a hybrid cloud/on-prem platform. This platform had several complexities, including global replication of terabytes of data and the use of both Linux and Windows nodes in the cluster. As a defence contractor, the security of this platform was a critical aspect. With the amount of data involved, speed and cost management were crucial metrics.

- Provided technical leadership to the Platform team. Engaged with key stakeholders across the organisation to achieve adoption of the Internal Developer Platform. Created a team roadmap to develop new platform capabilities requested by the engineering community.
- Developed relationships with external vendors that resulted in greater value from the products. Through regular calls, I was able to get new features prioritised. By committing to a multi-year

SKILLS

Languages

NodeJS, TypeScript, Go, Python, Bash

Data Stores/Transfer

SQL, NoSQL, RabbitMQ, gRPC, Redis, GraphDB

Infrastructure

Docker, Kubernetes, K3s, Terraform, Crossplane, Replicated, ArgoCD, GitOps

Platforms

AWS, Azure, Civo, Google Cloud, VMware

Other

Team leadership, mentoring, continuous professional development, developer relations

SPEAKING

TechMids 2024

KubeCon North America 2022

KubeHuddle Scotland 2022

Cloud Native Rejekts EU 2022

DevOps Days Birmingham
2022

contract with our long-term vendors, I achieved a 33% discount.

- Established a DevX Working Group with key influencers from the engineering community. An Internal Developer Platform was a new concept to the organisation, so there was much uncertainty about the value that could be provided.
- Worked with my team to build personal goals and provided mentoring and help so that they could achieve them.
- Worked to upgrade the company to use modern development tooling, such as migrating from Subversion to Git, adoption of GitOps and continuous delivery.
- Recruited new engineers to the team.

Gitpod, Kiel — Senior Engineer II

AUG 2021 - JAN 2023

AWS, Azure, Developer Experience, Developer Relations, Docker, Go, Google Cloud, Helm, Kubernetes, Mentoring, Remote Development, Replicated, Self-Hosted, Technical Leadership, TypeScript

Provided the technical leadership for the self-hosted product, working with users to successfully manage over 1,000 installations in the wild

- Designed and built the Gitpod Installer. This replaced some very unwieldy Helm charts to simplify the installation experience for both Gitpod and self-hosted users alike. This was a very successful endeavour and launched Gitpod self-hosted into a mainstream product.
- Extended the Gitpod Installer by using Replicated's Kubernetes-Off-The-Shelf (KOTS) to provide a one-click install of Gitpod. This required extensive work with Replicated engineers to extend their product so it would work with the Gitpod Installer.
- Worked with external users to understand their needs for the self-hosted product. This involved developing relationships with key stakeholders at enterprise customers and engaging with the Gitpod community.
- Mentored engineers in my team. This mostly involved unlocking their self-confidence and using my experience to help them solve problems. I was fortunate enough to work with some brilliant humans and was, without doubt, the most exciting part of my role.
- Wrote, submitted and delivered talks for various international conferences including KubeCon North America and Cloud Native Rejekts EU.

Foundry 4, London — Lead DevOps Consultant (contract)

FEB 2020 - MAR 2021

Architecture, Automation, Azure, CI/CD, GitOps, Google Clou, Helm, Kubernetes, NodeJS, OpenFaaS, PHP, Python, R, Semantic Release, Serverless, Terraform

Provided DevOps leadership and consultancy services to help Foundry4 clients level-up their DevOps capability

- Worked with significant clients, including Ofgem, the British Red Cross and HM Planning Inspectorate, on a wide range of projects.

The key arbiter of success was the ability to keep ahead of current trends in DevOps and being able to explain these to technical and business stakeholders.

- Worked across a range of technologies and patterns, dependent upon the client's skill set and experience. The role was split between architecture and planning, hands-on technical and stakeholder management.
- Provided technical leadership, both amongst the Foundry4 team and client team, running structured and ad-hoc training sessions. These were focused on the new patterns and workflows being implemented as part of the programme the consultancy was engaged in delivering but often covered additional topics as necessary.
- Kubernetes and GitOps was a regular feature of the work delivered but included many different features of the cloud providers used. There was a strong focus on automation, self-service, reliability and monitoring.

Energy Systems Catapult, Birmingham — Platform Engineer (contract)

NOV 2016 - AUG 2019

AWS, AngularJS, Automation, Docker, GraphDB, Hardware, IoT, Kafka, Kubernetes, Microservices, MongoDB, NodeJS, PostgreSQL, Python, R, Spark

Inherited an undocumented codebase from a third-party, including an unsupported proprietary graph database and worked to achieve a stable platform to provide domestic heating for trials involving 30 and 100 homes.

DPD UK, Birmingham — Senior Software Engineer

OCT 2012 - AUG 2014

Automation, MongoDB, MySQL, NodeJS, Rocket UniVerse, Workshops

Worked on the main DPD/Interlink RESTful API. Written in pure NodeJS, this business-critical service was responsible for handling requests for web users, depot operations and receiving batch data from senders.

EDUCATION

University of Wales, Aberystwyth — International Politics and Strategic Studies

2001 - 2004