Alexandru-Valentin Nicolaie

Senior DevOps & Platform Engineer

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PROFILE

Senior DevOps & Platform Engineer with six years in infrastructure, from on-prem sysadmin work to owning platform-wide initiatives on Azure for estates of 90+ applications.

I gravitate towards cross-cutting problems that slow every team down rather than just my own backlog: outdated dependencies, long-lived credentials, fragmented telemetry, undiscoverable services. I scope them from a one-line problem statement, validate with a small POC, then scale them into self-service capabilities that teams adopt without me being in the room.

Lately I'm exploring agentic AI for engineering tooling, including MCP servers that let AI coding agents query platform data directly.

EXPERIENCE

Senior DevOps Engineer · Tremend

03/2025 – Present

Client: EBRD – European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

- Dependency automation: owned the Renovate rollout end-to-end, from global configuration and onboarding of every repository to auto-merge, changelog automation and a dedicated pipeline that auto-heals lockfile conflicts. Removed a recurring manual chore from every team and reduced exposure to vulnerable dependencies.
- Secrets & identity: led the migration of application secrets to Azure Key Vault and the adoption of Workload Identity, replacing long-lived static credentials with short-lived, identity-based access and removing manual secret rotation from every team.
- Developer portal: took Backstage from POC to a platform developers rely on daily, with a full software catalog, API and dependency relationships, Entra ID sign-in and an MCP server that lets AI coding agents query the catalog directly.
- Observability: led the Application Insights standardisation (service-version and team tagging across all telemetry) and introduced Azure Monitor smart detection, cutting time-to-detect and hand-maintained alert rules.
- Release engineering: automated production smoke tests and centralised deployment notifications, giving every team deploying to pre-production and production in parallel the same confidence and visibility.
- Ways of working: turned ambiguous one-line problem statements into scoped, measured platform capabilities, and made them self-service with documentation, dashboards and pipelines other teams plug into.

Tech: Azure, Azure DevOps, Kubernetes, Terraform, Renovate, Backstage, Azure Key Vault, Workload Identity, Entra ID, Application Insights, Azure Monitor, MCP, Docker, Helm, Prometheus, Grafana, ELK Stack, Jenkins, GitLab, Ansible, PowerShell, Bash

DevOps Engineer · HTSS

05/2024 – 03/2025

- Deployed microservice-based applications to Kubernetes clusters and standalone VMs through automated CI/CD pipelines tailored to each target environment.
- Designed and implemented CI/CD pipelines for new internal and client-facing applications, each adapted to the application's requirements.
- Drove cost optimisation across Azure subscriptions: scheduled VM shutdown outside working hours, database scaling matched to workload, and moving lightweight apps off Kubernetes onto Dockerised VMs.
- Balanced resource usage and cost while keeping applications scalable and reliable across Kubernetes and VMs.

Tech: Azure DevOps, Azure, Docker, Kubernetes, Linux, Networking, PowerShell, Bash, Windows Server, Consul, RabbitMQ, Elasticsearch, Redis, SQL, MongoDB, SonarQube, Dependency-Track

DevOps Engineer · Luxoft (client: LSEG)

02/2024 – 05/2024

- Built a new internal framework for LSEG's developer team, designing and implementing cloud solutions on Azure.
- Created reusable Terraform modules and PowerShell automation around them.
- Integrated Pester to test and validate the Terraform modules before release.

Tech: Terraform, Linux, Azure, Azure DevOps, GitLab, Pester, PowerShell, Kubernetes

DevOps Engineer · HTSS

01/2023 – 02/2024

- Led the migration of company applications to Azure, moving websites from cPanel to Kubernetes clusters or Azure App Service containers.
- Provisioned project environments with Terraform and Ansible, with CI/CD in Azure DevOps.
- Orchestrated end-to-end delivery: infrastructure provisioning, configuration management and fully automated pipelines.

Tech: Azure DevOps, Azure, Terraform, Ansible, Docker, Kubernetes, Linux, PowerShell, Bash

System Administrator · HTSS

10/2020 – 12/2022

- Administered the virtual environments of the company and several clients.
- Managed backup infrastructure (Veeam, Nakivo) and SAN storage (HPE 3PAR, HPE MSA, HPE StoreOnce).
- Handled deployments and service requests for internal users and clients.

Tech: Windows Server 2012–2022, Linux, VMware vSphere, Veeam, Nakivo, HPE SAN, SCCM, PDQ

SKILLS

Cloud	Azure, AKS, App Service, Azure Functions, Key Vault, Entra ID, Oracle Cloud
Infrastructure as Code	Terraform, Ansible, Pester
CI/CD & Release	Azure DevOps Pipelines, GitLab CI, Jenkins, Renovate, SonarQube, Dependency-Track
Containers	Kubernetes, Docker, Helm
Observability	Application Insights, Azure Monitor, Prometheus, Grafana, ELK Stack
Platform & DevEx	Backstage, MCP servers, Workload Identity, Self-service pipelines
Scripting & OS	PowerShell, Bash, Linux, Windows Server
Data & Messaging	SQL, MongoDB, Redis, RabbitMQ, Consul
Networking & On-prem	Networking (CCNA), VMware vSphere, Veeam, HPE 3PAR / MSA

CERTIFICATIONS (11)

Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert- (valid until 2027)
Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate- (valid until 2027)
Security Immersion Completion Badge
CCNA: Switching, Routing, and Wireless Essentials – Cisco
Introduction to Cybersecurity – Cisco
cPanel & WHM Administrator (CWA) – cPanel
Microsoft Certified: DevOps Engineer Expert (valid until 2027)
Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals
CCNA: Enterprise Networking, Security, and Automation – Cisco
CCNA: Introduction to Networks – Cisco
HPE ATP – Hybrid IT Solutions V2 – Hewlett Packard Enterprise

EDUCATION

Master in Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology 2021 – 2023
Politehnica University of Bucharest · Thesis: Vulnerabilities and security methods in the BGP protocol

Bachelor in Electronics, Telecommunications and Information Technology 2017 – 2021
Politehnica University of Bucharest · Thesis: IoT-based aerial vehicles with sensors, simulated in NS3

HACKATHON

Microsoft OpenHack: Serverless · Microsoft, Prague, Czech Republic · 2023
Our team built a complete event-driven Azure serverless solution, working through integration, API and monitoring challenges from scratch.