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Tom Drew | DevOps Engineer, architect and technical leader

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Personal Statement

From radar technician in the RAF to senior DevOps engineer, I've spent a decade building and securing systems where failure isn't an option.

That background shapes how I work: I design for resilience, automate relentlessly, and treat operational excellence as non-negotiable. Whether leading a Linux migration with third-party vendors, standing up greenfield support frameworks, or running internal training to close skill gaps, I focus on outcomes that compound: reduced MTTR, lower costs, teams that ship with confidence.

Currently deepening my cloud expertise (AWS SAA certified, AZ-305 certified, CKA and Terraform 004 in progress) while delivering on-prem services in a GDS-compliant environment.

Key Skills

- **Cloud & Orchestration:** AWS (SAA), Azure (AZ-104, AZ-305), Kubernetes (CKA in progress), Docker.
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform (Terraform 004 in progress), Bicep, YAML.
- **CI/CD & Automation:** GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Azure Pipelines, Python, Bash, ArgoCD.
- **Security & Governance:** TOGAF, C4 Modeling, RBAC.

Certifications

- BSc Computing and IT
  - IT Systems: Planning for Success
  - Software Engineering (Distinction)
  - Managing IT: The Why, The What and The How
  - Algorithms, Data Structures and Computability
  - Systems Penetration Testing
- AZ-104 - Azure Administrator Associate + AZ-305 Solutions Architect Architect Expert
- AWS-SAA Solutions Architect
- SC cleared

Projects

Weather-Based Outfit Recommendation App | AWS, React, Amplify

Personal project demonstrating serverless architecture and modern frontend development:

- React frontend deployed via AWS Amplify with CI/CD pipeline from GitHub
- Lambda functions (Python) integrating OpenWeatherMap API with DynamoDB for user preferences
- Cognito authentication with API Gateway for secure, scalable access
- Infrastructure defined in TypeScript, following AWS Well-Architected principles

Home Lab Kubernetes Cluster | K3s, ArgoCD, Terraform

- Self-hosted K3s cluster managed via GitOps for continuous deployment
- Infrastructure provisioned and maintained with Terraform
- Runs personal services including Home Assistant, media management, and monitoring stack

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Met Office | Senior DevOps Engineer (Contract) | February 2025 – Present

Initial 6-month engagement extended to 18 months

- **Technical Governance & Peer Review:** Driving code quality and architectural alignment across the new cloud-based Data Acquisition Service; providing high quality peer reviews (PRs) on infrastructure-as-code and Python function code that follows best practices for security, modularity, and scalability.
- **Knowledge Engineering & Enablement:** Established and led a weekly internal AWS Training Syndicate. Directly addressed skill gaps identified in team retrospectives, fostering a culture of continuous learning and reducing team reliance on external silos.
- **Strategic OS Migration:** Leading a high-stakes Linux OS migration project, coordinating between a third-party vendor and internal stakeholders to update legacy dependencies, harden the core infrastructure and increase automation.
- **GDS Compliance:** Engineering national data integrations aligned with Government Digital Service (GDS) standards, ensuring technical designs meet accessibility, security, and scalability requirements for public-sector delivery.

Ordnance Survey | Support Engineer: Data Hub and NUAR | July 2024 - February 2025

- **Framework Architecture:** Designed and implemented a greenfield support framework for the National Underground Asset Register (NUAR), transforming a complex project handover into a sustainable, repeatable internal process.
- **Cost Optimisation:** Developed an automated Azure Logic App solution that enforced infrastructure state, directly reducing monthly cloud expenditure and enhancing overall system reliability**.**
- **Observability & SLAs:** Improved system uptime and transparency by engineering a suite of static and transactional monitoring tools, ensuring adherence to contractual SLAs.

WPA | Azure DevOps Engineer | January 2024 - June 2024

- **Function Foundations:** Spearheaded the re-establishment of the UK DevOps function as the sole on-site engineer, defining the CI/CD strategy and deployment capabilities for the Somerset HQ.
- **Agile Governance:** Served as Certified Scrum Master, re-engineering team workflows to improve predictability and delivery cadence.
- **Security & RBAC:** Conducted a comprehensive security audit of Azure DevOps environments, implementing a Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) model to harden the organisation's deployment posture.

Met Office | Senior DevOps Engineer | February 2020 – January 2024

- **Force Multiplier & Mentorship:** Scaled the engineering team's capability by designing and implementing a VM-based Jenkins CI/CD framework, replacing legacy systems and mentoring cross-functional teams on automation best practices.
- **Disaster Recovery (DR) Leadership:** Spearheaded a comprehensive DR workshop series that overhauled organisational recovery protocols, significantly reducing MTTR (Mean Time To Recovery) and mitigating reputational risk for national services.
- **SecOps & Risk Mitigation:** Orchestrated the response to formal penetration testing, introducing enterprise-grade credential management and closing critical remote-access vulnerabilities.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Identified and revived lapsed vendor-support agreements and documented opaque remote-access systems, resulting in immediate annual savings of $6,000 and enhanced system supportability.

Royal Air Force | IT Technician | May 2014 - November 2019

- **Managed and maintained mission-critical IT systems** vital to daily operations, demonstrating a strong commitment to operational excellence.
- **Delivered high-level briefs to senior station executives**, translating complex technical information into clear, concise updates for non-technical audiences.
- **Developed a proactive approach to problem-solving** and strategic discipline in a high-stakes environment where system availability was paramount.
- **Gained foundational expertise** in Linux, IT security, and network management as a CISCO Academy-trained technician.

Additional Interests

- RYA Competent Crew
- Hill and Moorland Leader walking qualification
- DofE Gold