

David Gardiner

Forward-Deployed AI & Kubernetes Architect | Senior DevSecOps Engineer

Edinburgh, Scotland, UK | British & Irish citizen | EU work rights

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Forward-deployed AI and Kubernetes architect with 10+ years in senior DevOps and platform roles. Works from workflow discovery through bounded implementation, evaluation, rollout and handover, turning real operational problems into useful integrations that teams can support and own.

Current focus is governed AI integration across platform engineering, SRE, compliance and data. Delivery patterns combine Python, Kubernetes, APIs, GitOps, observability, kagent, agentgateway, MCP and A2A with explicit tool and data boundaries and human authority before consequential action.

CORE EXPERTISE

AI workflow integration: kagent, agentgateway, multi-agent orchestration, MCP, A2A, WebMCP, Skills, LLM gateways, agent evaluation, deterministic compliance evidence, human-in-the-loop controls.

Forward-deployed delivery: workflow discovery, API integration, bounded automation, reference implementations, acceptance evidence, adoption guides, runbooks, rollback and operational handover.

Kubernetes platforms: Kubernetes lifecycle, networking, storage, security and policy, identity and RBAC, Helm, Kustomize, Cilium, Istio, GitOps, Flux and Argo workflows.

Cloud, observability and development: Azure, AKS, AWS, Terraform, Azure Policy, Prometheus, Grafana, OpenTelemetry, Azure Monitor, Python, Go, Bash, YAML.

SELECTED EVIDENCE

- **Forward-deployed workflow transformation:** embed with business, platform and operations teams to uncover tedious, high-friction work, map the real process and turn a useful target into a bounded agentic workflow with named owners, authority boundaries and acceptance criteria.
- **Reusable agent delivery platform:** built a Kubernetes-hosted harness using kagent specialists, agentgateway routing, internal and third-party MCP servers, A2A, Skills and prompt engineering; WebMCP extends the same governed approach into bounded browser-native agent interfaces.
- **Operational agent workflows:** applied the platform to systems triage, ServiceNow incident handling, Kubernetes deployment guidance, knowledge capture, escalation and remediation planning, automating long-running evidence work while keeping consequential changes explicitly controlled.
- **From pilot to owned capability:** combine deterministic evaluation, policy checks, observability, runtime receipts, runbooks, rollback and team handover so a promising AI demonstration becomes a supportable workflow the customer can operate and improve.

Evidence is sanitized and labelled by proof status. Private implementation detail can be discussed during due diligence where confidentiality permits.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior DevSecOps Engineer | Global Investment Bank

April 2022 - Present

- Lead technical implementation across Kubernetes platform lifecycle, networking, storage, security, identity, policy, observability and operations.
- Re-architected sequential GitLab and Azure DevOps cluster pipelines into a GitOps-first, pull-based fleet model using Azure Service Operator, KRO, Flux, HelmRelease, External Secrets Operator and Kyverno.
- Extended the operator model to application delivery and an internal developer platform, enabling self-service namespaces, quotas, network policies and releases through governed Git changes.
- Translate platform, SRE, compliance, data and application-team problems into bounded AI integrations spanning kagent, agentgateway, internal and third-party MCP servers, Skills, A2A and Argo orchestration.
- Build evidence-first incident triage as one platform workflow, with specialist fan-out, read-only tooling, deterministic evaluation and human approval before mutation.
- Produce sanitized demonstrations, reference architectures, runbooks and verification bundles that distinguish proven, partial and target-state capability.

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - CONTINUED

Senior DevOps Engineer | BEIS (UK Government)

January 2021 - March 2022

- Led DevOps initiatives across cloud infrastructure and containerisation.
- Implemented GitOps, semantic versioning and Kubernetes-operator delivery patterns.
- Established monitoring and observability practices to improve operational visibility.

Senior DevOps Engineer | NatWest

January 2020 - August 2020

- Architected a self-hosted Kubernetes platform using PKS and AWS.
- Built an internal developer platform within banking security and compliance requirements.

Senior DevOps Engineer | JP Morgan

June 2018 - November 2019

- Led DevOps delivery for a critical data-protection platform and automated sensitive-workload deployments.
- Owned infrastructure hosting and monitoring solutions.

Senior DevOps Engineer | Barclays Bank

August 2017 - June 2018

- Led cloud migration work for customer-facing banking applications.
- Built Infrastructure as Code and deployment automation with Python and Ansible.

Senior DevOps Engineer | Redeem Group

March 2016 - July 2017

Senior DevOps Engineer | UK Government

December 2015 - March 2016

SELECTED ENGINEERING PROGRAMMES & INNOVATION PIPELINE

- **Kubernetes and AI integration platform:** Kubernetes-first reference patterns spanning security, identity, policy, observability and GitOps, with kagent and agentgateway providing governed AI coordination.
- **Evidence-driven agentic delivery factory:** approved work items run in isolated workspaces with durable traces, deterministic acceptance gates, independent review, PR/CI evidence and policy-bound merge controls.
- **Agentic web interfaces:** WebMCP-enabled portfolio and commerce patterns expose discoverable, bounded browser-native tools so agents can query evidence and assist users without unrestricted page automation.
- **Digital commerce operations:** end-to-end product delivery across authentication, release automation, payments, inventory, monitoring and owner-operated fulfilment controls.
- **Governed agent transactions:** implemented an offline x402 v2 proof covering agent discovery, HTTP 402 challenge, buyer policy, protected delivery and redacted receipts. The verified path is synthetic and non-settleable; wallet and real-payment execution remain deliberately outside the claim.

DELIVERY APPROACH

- Start with the workflow and operating outcome, not the model.
- Build the smallest useful integration with explicit authority and data boundaries.
- Separate architecture, implementation and runtime proof.
- Keep consequential actions observable, reversible and human-approved.
- Leave teams with reference implementations, evaluation, runbooks, rollback and operational ownership.

ENGAGEMENT

British and Irish citizen based in Edinburgh, Scotland, with EU work rights. Available for remote, English-speaking fractional and fixed-scope engagements across Kubernetes, DevSecOps and governed AI integration, subject to availability and conflict review.