

Donald Simpson

Platform Engineer (DevOps / SRE / MLOps)

Kubernetes • Cloud Platforms • Infrastructure as Code • AI/ML Infrastructure
Remote (Outside IR35) | Greater Edinburgh Area

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Profile

Senior Platform Engineer with **20+ years' experience** designing, building, and operating secure, automated, cloud-native platforms in enterprise and regulated environments. Deep expertise in **Kubernetes-based platform engineering, AWS, infrastructure as code, CI/CD, observability, and DevSecOps**.

Strong background in reliability engineering (SRE), with hands-on experience defining SLOs/SLIs, reducing operational toil, and improving incident response. Increasing focus on **AI/ML and data platforms** from an infrastructure and operations perspective, including GPU-aware Kubernetes workloads and data-heavy pipelines.

Published technical author (*Extending Jenkins, Beginning Docker*) and long-time contributor to DevOps best practices across large organisations and startups.

Core Skills

- **Cloud & Platforms:** Kubernetes, AWS (EKS, ECS, Lambda, API Gateway, IAM), Bare Metal, Hybrid Cloud
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Terragrunt, AWS CDK, CloudFormation
- **CI/CD & GitOps:** GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins, ArgoCD, Docker
- **Observability & SRE:** Dynatrace, Datadog, Prometheus, Grafana, OpenSearch, ELK/EFK, SLO/SLI design
- **DevSecOps:** Policy-as-code, container security, compliance-driven environments
- **Data & AI Platforms:** ClickHouse, embeddings & clustering (MiniLM, HDBSCAN), local inference, MLOps workflows
- **Languages & Scripting:** Python, Bash, Groovy, YAML

Applied Platform & AI Projects

Remora Risk Engine | <https://remora-ai.com>

Oct 2025 – Present

AI-driven market-regime and risk-assessment engine designed to help algorithmic trading bots avoid high-volatility, unsafe market conditions.

- Designed and built a **production-grade Python microservice** delivering explainable, real-time risk scores for trading bots.

- Implemented **multi-signal regime detection** using volatility modelling, momentum classifiers, and ML-driven indicators.
- Built a REST API with safe-mode fallback logic for automated trading integrations.
- Back-tested thousands of historical trade windows to validate filters and quantify avoided losses.

Tech: Python, FastAPI, Pandas, NumPy, ML/AI, REST APIs, Ubuntu, Proxmox, Observability

CarHunch | <https://www.carhunch.com>
May 2025 – Present

Full-stack automotive analytics platform analysing UK MOT and accident data to benchmark individual vehicles against market averages.

- Designed and operated a **ClickHouse-based OLAP platform**, including schema design, partitioning, backups, and materialized views.
- Built Python ETL pipelines to ingest and process large-scale MOT datasets.
- Implemented Redis caching to optimise API performance and reduce query latency.
- Developed API layers (Python/PHP) and a custom WordPress-based front end.
- Prototyped **AI-driven insights** using MiniLM embeddings and clustering; evaluating LLaMA/GPT4All for natural-language reports.

Tech: ClickHouse, Python, PHP, Redis, WordPress API, GitLab CI, Proxmox, AI/ML

Professional Experience

Shell — Platform Engineer (DevOps / SRE)
Apr 2023 – Present | Remote

- Platform engineer for **OSDU**, a mission-critical, API-driven global data platform.
- Designed and operated **AWS EKS** platforms across multiple regions using Terraform and GitHub Actions.
- Standardised infrastructure and deployment patterns in collaboration with AWS consultants and internal teams.
- Led platform observability using **Dynatrace**, including synthetic monitoring, log ingestion, metrics, and alerting.
- Defined and evolved **SLOs/SLIs**, embedding reliability targets into operational workflows.
- Applied SRE principles to incident management, post-incident reviews, and automation.
- Contributed to early **AI/ML platform initiatives**, including Amazon Bedrock/Q experiments and AI-assisted observability.

ubloquity — Senior DevOps Engineer
Nov 2022 – Apr 2023

- Designed and operated **hybrid Kubernetes platforms** across AWS EKS and bare-metal OVH using Rancher and Terraform.
- Owned the end-to-end platform stack in a startup environment.

- Built permissioned **blockchain platforms (Multichain)** integrated into CI/CD workflows.
- Implemented GitOps pipelines with GitHub, ArgoCD, and Docker.
- Delivered centralised logging and observability with **OpenSearch and Fluentd**.

RS Components — DevOps Engineer

Mar 2022 – Nov 2022

- Developed reusable Terraform/Terragrunt modules for AWS.
- Built and optimised CI/CD pipelines using **GitLab CI**.
- Operated scalable GitLab Runners on ECS/Fargate and Nomad.
- Led migration of on-prem services to AWS.
- Embedded DevSecOps practices with Datadog observability.

Registers of Scotland — DevOps Engineer

Jan 2020 – Mar 2022

- AWS-focused DevOps using **AWS CDK** for infrastructure automation.
- Enabled multiple teams onboarding to AWS.
- Built centralised logging with Elasticsearch/Kibana and Kinesis Firehose.
- Developed monitoring platforms with **Prometheus and Grafana** on ECS/Fargate.

Earlier Roles (Selected)

DevOps / Build / Platform Engineering roles at: RBS, Tesco Bank, People's Postcode Lottery, HSBC, Sky, Cognizant, Intelligent Finance, HBOS (1999–2020).

Focus areas included CI/CD automation, container platforms, cloud migration, build engineering, and large-scale enterprise systems.

Publications & Community

- **Author:** *Extending Jenkins* (Packt Publishing)
 - **Author:** *Beginning Docker* (Video Course, Packt)
 - **Technical Reviewer:** Multiple Jenkins and Docker titles (Packt)
 - **Community:** Organiser, Edinburgh Automated IT Solutions Meetup
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Education

- **Postgraduate Diploma**, Information Systems — Edinburgh Napier University
 - **Bachelor of Land Economy (BLE)** — University of Aberdeen
 - **HNC**, Business Studies — Cardonald College, Glasgow
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Availability

Open to **fully remote**, **Outside IR35** contracts in:

- Platform Engineering | DevOps / SRE | AI-adjacent infrastructure and data platform roles