

Simon Telford BSc (Hons)

Lead Platform Engineer | Principal Consultant | Technical Leadership | Azure Cloud Architecture | Platform Engineering

Email: simon@thetelfords.uk | Tel: 07779 025538

Professional Summary

Lead Platform Engineer and Principal Consultant with over 12 years' experience delivering enterprise Azure platforms, Platform Engineering, Infrastructure as Code and cloud architecture across consultancy and in-house leadership roles. Currently responsible for the technical direction of enterprise Azure platforms, defining engineering standards, Infrastructure as Code strategy and DevOps practices across multi-supplier engineering teams. Strong technical background across Azure Databricks, Terraform, Azure DevOps, MongoDB, C#, Azure Functions and event-driven architectures, combined with technical leadership, mentoring and stakeholder engagement.

Technical Skills

- **Cloud & Platform:** Microsoft Azure, Azure Databricks, Azure Functions, Azure Event Hubs, Azure Storage, Managed Identity, Amazon Web Services (AWS), AWS Lambda, Amazon S3
- **Platform Engineering:** Azure Cloud Architecture, Platform Engineering, Technical Leadership, Engineering Standards, Event-driven Architecture
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform (primary), ARM Templates, Bicep
- **DevOps:** Azure DevOps, YAML Pipelines, CI/CD, Jenkins, Octopus Deploy, AWS CodeCommit, AWS CodeBuild, AWS CodeDeploy
- **Development:** C#, .NET, PowerShell, REST APIs
- **Data:** Azure Databricks, MongoDB, SQL Server
- **Containers:** Docker
- **Monitoring:** Azure Monitor, Application Insights, Log Analytics, Seq, Amazon CloudWatch

Professional Experience

CGI UK Ltd (formerly BJSS)

Lead Platform Engineer (Azure) | December 2020 – Present

- Own the technical direction of the Azure Platform, defining engineering standards, Infrastructure as Code strategy and DevOps practices across a 20+ engineer, multi-supplier Platform Engineering team.
- Lead engineering across Azure Databricks, Azure Functions, Event Hubs, Terraform and Azure DevOps.
- Design and evolve Azure cloud architecture using Terraform as the primary Infrastructure as Code technology, complemented by ARM Templates and Bicep where appropriate.
- Develop Azure DevOps CI/CD pipelines supporting automated testing, ephemeral environments and repeatable platform deployments.

- Collaborate with solution architects, data engineers, developers and testers to deliver enterprise Azure Data Platforms across the full software delivery lifecycle.
- Managed Azure cost and security governance across a cloud estate exceeding £15k/month, providing cost analysis, optimisation recommendations and governance to support secure, cost-effective platform operations.
- Mentor engineers and support recruitment, technical interviews and capability development across the engineering team.
- Previously Sustainability Champion, promoting Green Software Engineering practices and contributing to organisational Net Zero initiatives through procurement, supplier engagement and sustainability improvements.

SJ Telford Consultancy Ltd

Director & Principal Consultant | April 2021 – Present

- Founded and lead a consultancy providing Platform Engineering, Azure Cloud Architecture and Technical Leadership services.
- Own the technical direction for client engagements, defining cloud architecture, engineering standards, Infrastructure as Code strategy and delivery approach.
- Architected and built an Azure event-driven platform processing up to 2 million messages per day.
- Developed cloud-native platforms using Azure Functions, C#, MongoDB and event-driven architectures.
- Reduced Azure hosting costs to under £100/month through platform redesign, serverless architecture and efficient resource utilisation, enabling the platform to operate cost-effectively at scale.
- Designed CI/CD solutions using AWS CodeCommit, CodeBuild, CodeDeploy and Amazon CloudWatch.
- Design Infrastructure as Code using Terraform with Azure DevOps CI/CD and automated deployment strategies.
- Provide Principal Consultant services directly to clients and through subcontract engagements.

Impero Software

Lead DevOps Engineer / Infrastructure Team Lead | September 2018 – December 2020

- Led the Infrastructure and DevOps function supporting Azure, AWS and AliCloud.
- Introduced Terraform as the strategic Infrastructure as Code platform.
- Implemented Azure DevOps CI/CD while migrating from Jenkins.
- Designed centralised monitoring using Azure Monitor, Application Insights and Seq.
- Embedded DevOps and Platform Engineering best practices, helping establish a strong engineering culture across Agile delivery teams.

Dr Foster

DevOps Engineer | February 2016 – September 2018

- Redesigned enterprise deployment platforms supporting 40+ products across 50+ deployment targets.
- Introduced Infrastructure as Code principles and modern release automation.
- Helped architect Docker adoption and automated deployment pipelines.

Dollar Financial UK

Early Support Team Leader & Junior Software Developer | August 2013 – February 2016

- Led and managed an Application Support team.
- Designed a live monitoring system across a 300-store estate.

Professional Certifications

- Databricks Platform Architect
- Databricks Platform Administrator
- Linux Foundation – Green Software for Practitioners
- Certified Carbon Literate
- MongoDB for .NET Developers
- Agile SCRUM Project Management

Education

University of Nottingham — BSc (Hons) Physics

Interests

Renewable Energy • Green Software • Co-founder of Nottingham EV Owners Club, working with Nottingham City Council to promote electric vehicle adoption and sustainable transport • Church Bell Ringing