

ROBK

DevOps Engineer

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/robertkls

Blog: robk.uk

COVER LETTER

My career has focused on building, automating, and supporting credit card payment and fraud detection platforms for major financial institutions. I bring expertise in Infrastructure as Code and automation, particularly Terraform and Ansible, supported by both Terraform and AWS certifications. I am equally comfortable across Windows Server and Linux platforms, and I have extensive hands-on experience with modern DevOps tooling, CI/CD practices, and tools.

Working in DevOps and Agile-focused teams has been fundamental to my career. I enjoy the full breadth of the DevOps lifecycle - from collaborative planning, documentation, and knowledge-sharing, to hands-on engineering, CI/CD pipeline development, infrastructure automation, and continuous improvement of processes and ways of working. I take pride in mentoring engineers and contributing to a culture of learning, feedback, and shared ownership.

Below are a few examples of how I've supported this in practice.

CI/CD, IAC AND AWS

As part of my AWS, IaC, and CI/CD work, I used GitHub Actions as the core pipeline engine and integrated it with AWS through Terraform. I implemented an OIDC-based IAM least-privilege model, allowing GitHub Actions to assume tightly scoped roles and run Terraform securely without long-lived credentials. I also designed Terraform configurations that replaced bastion hosts with AWS Systems Manager Session Manager, restricting direct EC2 access to a small admin group only.

Using Terraform, I designed the core components of a secure, resilient, end-to-end three-tier AWS architecture, including VPC networking, Auto Scaling Groups with bespoke Launch Templates, Security Groups, Application Load Balancers with full configuration, Route 53 DNS, ACM TLS certificates, and supporting infrastructure.

I then built a GitHub Actions workflow that deploys this infrastructure across multiple AWS regions, driven by environment-specific configuration files to ensure consistent, repeatable, and scalable deployments.

ANSIBLE GUILD

I was one of the founding members of the Ansible Guild - an initiative created to explore how Ansible could be used across multiple disciplines and to break down silos by collaborating on shared automation standards. We aimed to leverage Ansible's platform-agnostic capabilities to manage different technology stacks.

As part of this work, I developed Ansible playbooks to automate provisioning for one of our .NET-based applications and deployed them across our Windows estate. I also worked closely with the UNIX team to help define their standards for OS baseline configuration, system hardening, and application provisioning.

The overall outcome: Several compute teams continuing to use our playbooks as the foundation for managing their estate.

GLOBAL AGILE COALITION

I have been an active contributor to Agile ways of working, including volunteering as a member of the Global Agile Coalition - an initiative led by senior Scrum Masters and Agile Coaches to assess and improve Agile maturity across the organization. As part of this group, I worked with colleagues from multiple regions to examine how Agile practices were being applied in real teams. We facilitated discussions, analysed common challenges, and produced a set of practical recommendations. I then brought these insights back to my local teams.

A key local outcome was that leadership in the UK datacentre strengthened Agile delivery by requiring all teams to follow a consistent, organization-wide Scrum standard.

DOCUMENTATION, KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER, MENTORING

Within my team, I proactively documented complex processes, operational run-books, and infrastructure patterns to ensure we avoided "reinventing the wheel" and could standardize and simplify our workflows. This documentation became the foundation for several automation initiatives, as it allowed us to identify repetitive tasks and convert them into reliable, codified processes. It also supported effective knowledge transfer across regions.

Through mentoring and structured collaboration with our India operations team, we strengthened technical capability, improved communication, and established a trusted, highly effective working relationship between our regions.