

A Day in the Life of a

# Solutions Architect



*Mathijs Lautenbach from our DCS Cloud Consulting team discusses his role.*

## How did you get into this career?

I pretty much “rolled into” an IT career! After working several years part-time for a big telecom provider while studying, I accepted a job offer by an IT-company and moved to Ireland back in 2006. Throughout my career, I have held several positions mostly focused on administrating .Net Applications. Around 2012 I was involved in my first major cloud migration where I worked together with my team to migrate a big Dutch department store from on-premise to the cloud. Ever since I’ve worked with many customers on their cloud journey, mainly in the role as Cloud Solution Architect.

## Describe your average day at Version 1?

I act as a trusted advisor for many of our clients. On an average day I would spread my time between designing Cloud architectures, presenting proposed solutions to our customers, working on pre-sales engagements and technology validation either by desk-research and/or test-deployments, and providing technical governance for on-going cloud (migration) projects. Additionally, I lead a team of Cloud consultants for our Digital and Cloud practice and would usually spend part of my day coaching and catching up with my team members.

## What are the key moments in your day?

Certainly, my most important key-moment of the day would be my morning coffee(s)! Once awake, I join daily-standup meetings for the projects I’m involved with. I try to apply some form of time-management and allocate blocks of time for internal and external meetings, customer projects and ‘focus-time’ to ensure I can get things done.

## What are the best AND most challenging parts of your job?

My job allows a great degree of freedom and flexibility on how to spend my time. There is plenty of customer interaction and from a technology perspective, the role is a very varied job with great exposure to all elements of IT. All of the mentioned parts of the job do give me a lot of energy, but at the same time can be the most challenging part of the job; as a generalist you are expected to have a wide area of knowledge of the ever-evolving, and endless, cloud technologies which do require determination and continuous learning.

## What advice would you give to someone looking to get a job as a Solutions Architect?

Make sure you stay up to date with the latest developments and required skills in cloud computing. Being able to react quickly to changes in demands/asks in the market has never been more important. Keeping an open-minded- and can-do attitude in adopting new technologies will enable you to guide your customers in these exciting times!

## Describe your job in 5 words or less.

Innovative, Trusted Advisor, Tech-savvy, Influence.

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