Dean Wallis

Snr AWS Cloud Engineer, Version 1 London

What led you to the career path you're on now?

I joined the Royal Navy at 17 and served in the first Gulf War onboard HMS Gloucester. After leaving the Navy I worked in the Dixons alarm monitoring centre for 12 years where I studied PC repair in my spare time. I was able to get a job as an IT apprentice at the age of 40 with Hertfordshire Police where I progressed to IT support engineer. I left the Police to join KCOM as an IT support engineer and it was whilst supporting the KCOM cloud team that I discovered AWS and was immediately hooked. I studied for and passed the AWS Solutions Architect Associate exam and was able to secure several different roles within the AWS space before joining Version 1 where I have progressed to Senior DevOps engineer working on a Government cloud migration project for the last 18 months.

What does your working day look like?

My working week consists of daily stand-up's where we discuss what we are currently working on and the progress we are making. My daily tasks as a Platform DevOps engineer range from providing support to the client teams to building out infrastructure using a range of tools including Terraform, Jenkins, Python, Vault, Lambda, and many others. I recently took on the role as team leader to one member of the Version 1 team and I incorporate this into my working week with fortnightly catchups and some light admin tasks. I am enjoying the opportunity to mentor someone who is just starting up in the DevOps world and sharing the knowledge and tips that I have picked up along the way.

What do you like best about your role?

I love learning to use and work with new technologies. I never stop learning and get a great amount of satisfaction from learning something new and building a working example from that knowledge. Since joining Version 1 I have gained the AWS Solutions Architect Professional, Hashicorp Terraform Associate and Hashicorp Vault Associate qualifications. I really enjoy building stuff in the cloud, especially using Terraform.

What advice would you give to someone looking to join your team?

You may sometimes come across stuff that will completely baffle you but stick with it and it will eventually become clear, and you will be able to move forward.

Describe your job in 5 words or less.

Satisfying, Challenging, Rewarding, Engaging, Diverse.

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VERSION 1