

Declan Morris

📧 declanmorris.com

Personal Statement

I am an IT Cloud Infrastructure Engineer with a fervent dedication to continuous learning, both within my professional role and during my personal time. As a self-taught developer, I have immersed myself in the ever-evolving landscape of the industry, recognizing the paramount importance of self-education in a field characterized by rapid technological advancements and evolving work methodologies.

My enthusiasm is particularly directed towards infrastructure as code, where I am committed to championing automation and repeatability in all my projects. I firmly believe that harnessing the power of automation not only enhances efficiency but also ensures the consistency and reliability of every solution I create.

Work Experience

Drax Group

IT Cloud Infrastructure Engineer

Selby, England

2022 – Present

- Standardized Linux builds to CIS Lvl 2 Hardened levels using Packer and Ansible, enhancing security and compliance.
- Developed Terraform code to automate and streamline AWS infrastructure upgrades, transforming manual tasks into a one-click pipeline.
- Designed Terraform Modules to simplify machine provisioning, empowering other teams to self-service while adhering to guardrails.
- Implemented a CI process for static code analysis to ensure standardized and secure infrastructure code practices.
- Authored Terraform and Ansible scripts for the configuration and hardening of ESXi hosts, including the creation of a vCenter, compute cluster, vSAN, switch, port groups, and VNICS from scratch.
- Engineered code to deploy an OpenShift container platform on vSphere, leveraging Afterburner and Ignition to achieve rapid platform creation.
- Orchestrated Kubernetes deployments using Azure DevOps Pipelines.
- Designed and implemented templated Helm charts, ensuring a streamlined process with fully documented configurations using helm-docs.
- Integrated Istio deployment seamlessly as part of the Helm chart for comprehensive service mesh capabilities.

Drax Group

Software Engineer

Selby, England

2020 – 2022

- Developed, deployed, configured, and maintained numerous mission-critical microservices, ensuring adherence to industry best practices.
- Created and deployed an Azure Function API and associated cloud resources using Terraform Infrastructure as Code (IAC), including PAAS MSSQL, VNET, and Linux VMs configured with Ansible.
- Led the upgrade of the plant metering system, along with all related services, databases, and queries, establishing a resilient system capable of real-time data retrieval, 24/7/365.
- Designed and implemented secure APIs to seamlessly integrate external services with HR data, prioritizing data security and confidentiality.
- Spearheaded the adoption of standardized CI/CD pipelines for all projects and guided the team in transitioning to YAML-based CD pipelines.

StarCompliance
Software Developer

York, England
2018 – 2020

- Automated the broker release process using PowerShell, reducing release time by a week for every broker feed release.
- Resolved numerous C# and MS SQL Server bugs, enhancing the stability and performance of the software.
- Enhanced Star software deployment scripts used by all developers to deploy and update sites on servers.
- Engineered a deployment tool for applying hotfixes to over 200 Star-hosted sites and upgrading them to the latest version, resulting in over 90 hours of monthly time savings for internal teams. Received internal recognition and an award for the initiative.
- Discovered and patched critical software vulnerabilities in the Star application, ensuring security and integrity.
- Addressed vulnerabilities identified in penetration test reports using Kali Linux tools to assess software vulnerabilities.

StarCompliance
Business Analyst

York, England
2016 – 2018

- Designed, documented, and delivered software specifications, including detailed requirements and state diagrams, facilitating effective communication between development and business teams.
- Collaborated closely with developers, quality assurance professionals, and client teams to gather research and functionality requirements, fostering a collaborative and cross-functional work environment.

Personal Projects

Personal Website: I have my own personal site for putting out articles on things I've found interesting. The whole deployment is IAC, and the site gets updated on pushes to main.

- Deployment of the infrastructure using [terraform](#) for the VM deployment and DNS.
- Configuration of webserver using [ansible](#).
- [Website coded](#) using Hugo and Markdown for creating a personal blog.

Education

Department of Chemistry, The University of York
Master of Chemistry with a Year in Industry, 2:1 Honours Degree

York, England
2010 – 2014

Cardinal Newman College

Preston, England
2008 – 2010

A Level		As Level	
Chemistry	A	Computing	C
Maths	A	General Studies	C
Biology	B		

Languages

English: Fluent

Mother tongue

Mandarin Chinese: Conversational

HSK 5 Certification completed in 2017 (expired)

Terraform: Advanced

Ansible: Advanced

Kubernetes: Intermediate

Python: Basic

Packer: Basic

References

References are available on request