

Jens Skott

Technology Leader | Principal Engineer | Head of Engineering

London, UK

Professional Profile

With over 15 years in the trenches, progressing from Linux sysadmin to Head of Engineering, I don't just lead technical teams, I build the environments where they can thrive.

My passion is to eliminate friction and empower developers. I achieve this by architecting sophisticated solutions to support engineers to focus on what they do best: generating business value through code, not spending cognitive load on operating systems and platforms. I've guided companies through critical technology shifts, including a full platform migration from AWS to GCP, on-prem to AWS, helped companies scale up by building secure, scalable cloud environments from the ground up.

Beyond the technology, I've scaled entire engineering departments, designing hiring strategies to attract top talent, structuring new teams, and mentoring them to become high-performing and self-sufficient.

While my passion lies in strategic leadership and building resilient teams, I remain a hands-on engineer at heart. You'll still find me coding, primarily in Golang, Typescript and Python to solve problems or write software, I am still very hands-on with terraform and other IaC and DevOps tools to automate and optimize processes, so I can stay close to the technology that drives business success.

Core Competencies

Category	Skills
Cloud & Platform Engineering	GCP , AWS, Firebase , Cloud Run , Cloud Functions, Kinesis, Pub/Sub , Cloudflare , Lambda, API Gateway, Kong, Apigee , CloudSQL, BigQuery , BigTable, Cloud Spanner, Cloud Storage, S3, RDS, DynamoDB, Firestore , VPC Networking, Cloud DNS, Cloud Armor, Memorystore
DevOps & Automation	Docker , Kubernetes, Terraform , Pulumi, Spacelift , Terraform Cloud, GitOps, GitHub Actions , ArgoCD, Helm, Cloud Build, Jenkins, Ansible, Chef, Backstage, Slack , JIRA, Vagrant

Software Engineering	Go, Python, TypeScript , Javascript, TDD, Bash, SQL, Rest, gRPC, React, Astro, NextJS, Hugo, Django, FastAPI, Gin, Hono, Bun, Deno, NodeJS, Express.js, K6, Pact
SRE & Observability	Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog , ELK, Pagerduty, Sentry, New Relic, OpenTelemetry , Incident.io , Google Operations Suite , logz.io , Nagios, Syslog, Honeycomb, Elastic APM, Cloud Watch
Data & AI	AI Agents , AI Ethics, Vertex AI , BigQuery, Dataflow, Looker, DBT, Prompt Engineering, Confluent
Security	Snyk , Github Advanced Security, Sonarqube , ISO27001, NISTv2 , Nessus, Cloudflare Zero Trust , Google Chrome Enterprise Premium (BeyondCorp),
Leadership & Strategy	Mentoring, Team Building , Agile Methodologies, Interviewing, Scrum, Kanban , Stakeholder Management, Strategic Planning, Architecture, Process Improvement, Change Management.

Professional Experience

Owner, Technology Consultant @ Thoughtgears (March 2025 - Present)

- Successfully guides multiple clients in building and scaling their engineering functions by establishing best practices for cloud-native architecture, DevOps, and CI/CD, leading to improved development velocity and system reliability.
- Architects and delivers bespoke cloud platform solutions, DevOps pipelines, and monitoring/observability frameworks for a diverse client base

Head of Engineering & Principal Engineer @ Checktrade (Feb 2021 - Mar 2025)

- Architected and led the strategic migration from a legacy AWS stack to a modern, event-driven platform on GCP, utilizing Cloud Run, Pub/Sub, and Golang to set the foundation for future innovation.
- Spearheaded a company-wide security uplift, restructuring the InfoSec department and implementing a mature security program to meet new owner requirements.
- Orchestrated a major engineering reorganization focused on efficiency and innovation, driving a 5-year strategy, a new Target Operating Model, and establishing a "Center for Operational Excellence."
- Championed the development of a sophisticated Internal Developer Platform (IDP) using Backstage, Kubernetes, and Golang, providing developers with a "paved path" that significantly boosted productivity and streamlined service delivery.
- Instituted robust operational processes, including formal incident response, a "Correction of Error" (post-mortem) framework, and embedded the "fix broken > build new" tenant within the engineering culture.

- Grew the engineering organization by defining a robust hiring strategy, designing team structures, and cultivating a high-performing, psychologically safe culture through dedicated mentoring and clear career pathways.
- Defined and embedded core engineering tenets including CI/CD, DevOps methodologies, and robust incident management processes, which became central to the team's culture.

DevOps Lead Engineer @ Loveholidays *(April 2020 - Jan 2021)*

- Engineered and launched widely adopted ChatOps tools (Deployment & Incident Bots) that streamlined release management and significantly reduced incident response times across the organization.
- Pioneered DevOps best practices as a key individual contributor, mentoring development teams to enhance operational self-sufficiency and automating infrastructure deployment with Terraform, GCP, and Kubernetes.

DevOps Manager @ Deltatre OTT *(Feb 2018 - April 2020)*

- Established the company's first Platform/DevOps function from the ground up, transforming the team's culture from leader-dependent to a collaborative, KPI-driven unit.
- Led the successful adoption and production implementation of Kubernetes (AWS EKS), utilizing Helm and Kustomize to manage a complex microservices architecture.
- Personally developed critical backend services in Golang, including a high-throughput API router and an ECS deployment utility, directly improving platform performance and deployment efficiency.
- Vastly improved organizational operational readiness by defining robust incident response procedures, on-call practices, and enhancing monitoring/alerting capabilities.

DevOps Engineer @ Accedo TV *(Jun 2016 - Feb 2018)*

- Designed and managed scalable AWS infrastructure using Terraform, Chef, and Kubernetes (ECS) to support the company's transition towards a microservices-oriented platform.
- Actively contributed to backend development using Golang and supported the decomposition of legacy monolithic applications, bridging the gap between infrastructure and development.

DevOps Engineer @ Schibsted *(2009-2016)*: Pioneered the company's DevOps transformation by establishing foundational development-to-production processes, implementing the Atlassian suite for SDLC management, and automating workflows with Ruby and Chef. Built an IDP for VMware in early 2011 to accelerate deployments for application owners and developers. Later took on IT management responsibilities, defining client platform strategies and implementing robust authentication and IT service management.

DevOps Engineer @ Gears of Leo (2015): Established a fully automated cloud environment on Rackspace Cloud. Implemented configuration management with Chef and CI/CD pipelines with Jenkins. Researched and experimented with early containerization (Docker) and orchestration (Kubernetes, Rancher) technologies.

DevOps Engineer @ King AB (2014): Automated a large-scale datacenter environment using private cloud platforms (OpenStack) and configuration management (Chef). Developed a custom deployment tracking tool in Ruby and led the migration of the development environment from physical servers to automated virtualized setups using Vagrant.

DevOps Engineer @ Klarna (2012): Spearheaded an experiment to migrate to a cloud based development environment, moving all development resources, deployments and processes to an automated environment using OpenShift.