

## DEVOPS ENGINEER

# Rhys Thornton

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DevOps engineer with five years of experience managing infrastructure and CI/CD pipelines for companies processing real money at scale. Currently looking after the cloud platform at an online marketplace running 1,400 containers across AWS. I care about keeping things boring and reliable — fewer 3am pages, more automated runbooks.

## EXPERIENCE

Nov 2022 – Present

### DevOps Engineer, Booking.com, Manchester

Part of the platform engineering team managing infrastructure for the UK and Northern Europe region.

- Manage **1,400 containers** across 3 EKS clusters handling 28 million API requests per day
- Reduced CI/CD pipeline times from **22 minutes to 7 minutes** by parallelising test stages and introducing build caching
- Designed and implemented a **blue-green deployment strategy** that cut production incidents during releases from 6 per month to 1
- Built a cost monitoring dashboard that identified **£180,000/year** in unused EC2 and RDS resources — all decommissioned within 2 months

Jan 2021 – Oct 2022

### Junior DevOps Engineer, AO.com, Bolton

Infrastructure and release engineering for the online electrical retailer's e-commerce platform.

- Migrated **38 services** from EC2 instances to Kubernetes (EKS), reducing infrastructure costs by 31%
- Wrote **Terraform modules** for all new infrastructure — achieved 94% infrastructure-as-code coverage
- Set up Datadog monitoring with **120 custom alerts** across application, infrastructure, and business metrics

Jun 2020 – Sep 2020

### IT Infrastructure Intern, BBC, Salford

Summer placement with the BBC's technology operations team at MediaCityUK.

- Automated **8 manual server provisioning tasks** using Ansible playbooks
- Helped migrate internal documentation from Confluence to a **GitLab-hosted wiki** with CI-driven publishing

## EDUCATION

Sep 2017 – Jun 2021

### BSc (Hons) in Computer Networks & Security, University of Salford, Salford

First Class Honours. Final year project on *automated vulnerability scanning for containerised applications*.

## SKILLS

AWS (EKS, EC2, RDS, S3, Lambda) • Kubernetes & Docker • Terraform & Ansible • CI/CD (GitHub Actions, GitLab CI, Jenkins) • Linux (Ubuntu, Amazon Linux) • Python & Bash scripting • Datadog & Prometheus/Grafana • Helm Charts • Networking (TCP/IP, DNS, load balancing) • Incident Management & On-Call

## CERTIFICATIONS

May 2022 – May 2025

### AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate, Amazon Web Services

Aug 2023 – Aug 2026

### Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA), Cloud Native Computing Foundation

Jan 2023 – Jan 2025

### HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate, HashiCorp

## LANGUAGES

English (native) • Welsh (basic)

## PROJECTS

Apr 2021 – Jun 2022

### Kubernetes Migration – AO.com

Led the migration of the e-commerce platform from EC2 to Kubernetes.

- Migrated **38 microservices** to EKS across staging and production environments
- Wrote Helm charts for all services with standardised health checks, resource limits, and auto-scaling
- Infrastructure costs dropped by **31%** (roughly £94,000/year) through better resource utilisation

Mar 2023 – Sep 2023

### CI/CD Pipeline Optimisation – Booking.com

Overhauled the build and deploy pipeline for the UK engineering teams.

- Reduced average pipeline runtime from **22 minutes to 7 minutes**
- Introduced Docker layer caching and parallelised test suites across **6 runners**
- Developers went from deploying **3 times/day to 12 times/day** on average

## REFERENCES

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**Sarah Liddell** Platform Engineering Manager, Booking.com, sarah.liddell@booking.com, +44 7700 900 331

**Chris Ward** Head of Infrastructure, AO.com, chris.ward@ao.com, +44 7700 900 455

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITY

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*Jan 2023* **Organiser – CloudNative Manchester Meetup**  
Co-organise bi-monthly meetups focused on Kubernetes, observability, and cloud infrastructure. Average turnout of 35 people. Secured sponsorship from Datadog and JetBrains.

*Jun 2022* **Volunteer – Manchester CoderDojo**  
Help run free coding sessions for young people aged 7-17. Focus on teaching Raspberry Pi projects and basic Linux skills.