

# Daniel Skowroński

## Contact

- pronouns: he/him
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- phone: it is not a preferred initial method of contact
- languages:
  - Polish - native
  - English - fluent, used daily for years
  - *happy to learn new ones if needed*
- location: Kraków, Poland; *open to relocation offers*

## Quick links

- professional homepage: [www.skowronski.pro](http://www.skowronski.pro)
- Github:
  - [github.com/danielskowronski](https://github.com/danielskowronski)
  - [github.com/skowronski-cloud](https://github.com/skowronski-cloud)
- tech blog: [skowronski.tech](http://skowronski.tech)
- LinkedIn: [/in/daniel-skowronski](https://in.linkedin.com/in/daniel-skowronski)

## Intro

I'm an IT engineer with experience and interest in many areas that include systems administration (**SysAdmin/SysOps** with primary focus on Linux systems), **infrastructure engineering** and **cyber-security**. I like to refer to myself as a **hacker** in the original meaning of that word - *a person skilled in information technology who uses their technical knowledge to achieve a goal or overcome an obstacle, within a computerized system by non-standard means.*

Some of my advantages include:

- **being a constant learner:** I'm excellent at identifying what I don't know and how to find the answers I need, so lack of knowledge or experience in technology required in a project is only another opportunity to learn
- **taking pride in my engineering work:** I always try to deliver the best quality product (e.g. code, infrastructure, documentation, advice) in the best possible way; obviously, that is not always possible, but when a tradeoff is necessary, it must always be understood and justified
- **desire to automate:** automation not only means I have more time for creative and interesting work, it also documents the process and makes it repeatable safely
- **experience with product management and customer relationships:** I have a lot of experience with internal customers, as well as some with external customers, from times when I worked as a freelance web developer
- **experience with incident management:** on every stage of my career I was developing monitoring solutions, coordinating incidents (calls, status updates, gathering SMEs), leading blameless post-mortem sessions and preparing RCA documents (both internal technical ones and for external customers)
- **understanding of multilayer nature of computer systems:** nowadays, it seems quite rare for engineer to be touching and having at least basic understanding multiple layers of computer systems (including physical entities, operating systems, networks, middleware protocols and applications themselves); to me this is vital part of work

## Professional experience

### Senior Cloud Engineer, DevOps Tooling Team, Grand Parade part of William Hill

September 2022 - ongoing | Kraków, Poland

This position is a continuation of the previous one, the Team rebranded to affirm focus on products that are not part of private cloud. The promotion reflected my involvement with high-level planning, architecture, improvements of Team ways of working as well as problems identification and resolution.

### Cloud Engineer, Infrastructure & Cloud Tooling Team, Grand Parade part of William Hill

February 2021 - September 2022 | Kraków, Poland

I took the internal opportunity to transfer to a business area more focused on cloud (both private on-prem one and AWS) and pure systems' administration to advance my career. The areas of work in Tooling Team included:

- shared services used in on-prem cloud including orchestration (Puppet and Mesos masters), key-value storage, network and firewall controlling APIs, as well as internal tools for developers; systems were deployed from IaaS - Puppet
- decommission of aforementioned on-prem cloud - sunseting, coordination with users etc.
- Docker Registry and artefact storage (mixture of on-prem solution with public cloud, later migrated to cloud-native cluster)
- company Git server infrastructure, configuration and support (first on-prem, later migrated to SaaS)
- company-wide code patterns for both IaaS with Terraform and CI/CD pipelines

It is important to mention that AWS networking and account governance is handled by a separate central team, therefore my experience gained here is focused mostly on compute and storage related services.

### Site Reliability Engineer, Big Data, Grand Parade part of William Hill

July 2020 - February 2021 | Kraków, Poland

On this position, I was maintaining and improving operational processes for a broad range of Big Data processing systems, as well as took part in on-call rotation. From an infrastructure point of view, I worked with tools deployed on Linux VMs to private on-prem cloud based on Puppet and to AWS. Some parts of my work required work with MS SQL procedures.

## Senior DevOps Engineer, IT Department, Prescient Co

October 2019 - July 2020 | Kraków, Poland

It was independent position, connecting IT and Development + QA. My main work areas included:

- consultancy of dev part of DevOps processes for IT Department (understanding requirements, cooperation with architects)
- technical leadership for several DevOps engineers who were working closely with software developers; mostly around CI/CD and infrastructure
- maintenance, improvements and deployments for some parts of production systems, for example PostgreSQL, RabbitMQ, Elasticsearch in ELK stack, HashiCorp Consul and Vault
- creation of Infrastructure-as-a-Code foundations for MS Windows and Linux bases systems running on VMware clusters, mostly using Ansible
- maintenance of local Azure DevOps (former Team Foundations Server - TFS) instance, improvements of build and deployment pipelines

## Linux Platform Engineer, DIMETRA Platform, Motorola Solutions Systems

May 2019 - October 2019 | Kraków, Poland

I was working on automation and orchestration of client-deployable systems on operating system level (package management, virtualization of internal components, hardware compatibility). Other than the actual project code (mostly bash, Python, RedHat configuration files) I was maintaining CI/CD for physical hardware (Jenkins).

This short adventure with Scrum-based Software Development for offline solutions (i.e. no live systems or operations work) let me understand that my skills are best used with a more dynamic work environment.

## Platform Operations Engineer, Network Operations Command Center, Akamai Technologies

July 2016 - May 2019 | Kraków, Poland

- The core of responsibilities at this position is quick response to real-time incidents and alerts covering all aspects of Akamai global network in "firefighting" mode and problem resolution at later stages that include routine maintenance tasks and investigations in cooperation with SMEs.
- More advanced topics I worked on as I gained experience included planned network maintenances (remote switch-overs, safety checks etc.), more in-depth issue analysis, communication with various vendors and be part of incident management from platform point of view.
- For last 9 months I gained further internal certifications that let me approve non-standard operations of fellow Platform Operations Engineers, mitigate and investigate complex networking issues (e.g. peering), deploy network-wide configuration changes as well as serve as backup Technical Incident Manager (company-wide, up to Sev2).

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## Skills and technologies

- **containerization and virtualization:** creation and optimization of small **Docker** images, management of stateful containers (**LXD**), basic operation and deployment of **Kubernetes (k8s)** clusters, managing virtual machines (**VMware, KVM**)
- **Linux:** daily low-level debugging, Gentoo compilation, small application clusters
- **MS Windows:** although I don't want to work with it more than occasional checks, I can get data from Active Directory, use PowerShell, set up IIS or perform troubleshooting
- **cyber-security:**
  - basics of architecture and protocols used in internet applications like HTTPS, proper PKI, JWT and PGP
  - threats and defences to common mistakes, vulnerabilities and bad actors like ones listed in OWASP TOP10, phishing, DDoS attacks, buffer overflow and others
- **databases:** small instances and clusters configuration (**MySQL, PostgreSQL**), SQL queries, ORM libraries; data analysis and mining (**SQLite** and structured documents - **JSON, YAML**)
- **high-level programming** (recently mostly **Go**, some exposure to C++ and Java): developing simple programs, run-time debugging, reverse engineering and improving existing ones
- **scripting:** developing scripts during my entire career for various tasks including automation of repetitive tasks, orchestration of build and deployments and data parsing; most experience with **Python, bash, Perl** and **awk**.
- **low-level programming** (mostly x86 assembly): debugging compiled programs, basic understanding of memory management and CPU related concepts (like branch prediction)
- **hardware** especially in embedded solutions: simple programming, awareness of key concepts, experience in debugging
- **networks:** some experience in all ISO/OSI model layers, mostly transport and session; tasks ranging from tcpdump analysis and manual communication with servers using text protocols (like HTTP/1.1 and SMTP) to VPN and IPsec tunnel configuration
- **cloud:** no matter the automation tools (**Ansible, Terraform, Puppet**) or if it is private on-prem solution based on VMware or LXD, public solution like AWS or even hybrid cloud - the principles are similar; my experience is related to both direct cloud solutions engineering and assisting development teams that in some organizations treat cloud as infinite cost-less resource, while in reality *it's just someone else's computer*

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## GDPR

I hereby give consent for my personal data included in my application to be processed for the purposes of the recruitment process under the European Parliament's and Council of the European Union Regulation on the Protection of Natural Persons as of 27 April 2016, with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (Data Protection Directive).