

Alexander Bakin

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WORK EXPERIENCE

DevOps Engineer

Nov 2023 — Aug 2026

[ELEKS](#)

Kraków, Poland

- Operated Kubernetes clusters hosting 23 microservices using Helm, Kustomize, and Istio, supporting 99.9% uptime
- Provisioned AWS infrastructure via Terraform, cutting environment setup time by 78% and significantly reducing configuration drift across 14 environments
- Architected CI/CD pipelines across 12+ microservices using GitLab CI and SonarQube, cutting deployment time from 4 hours to 18 minutes, enabling 3x more frequent releases
- Connected GitLab CI to Argo CD for GitOps deployments: CI built/tested images, Argo CD synced the cluster, improving deployment consistency and rollback reliability
- Built observability stack (Prometheus, VictoriaMetrics, Grafana, Loki, Alertmanager, OpenTelemetry) with custom exporters in Go, Python, and Bash, cutting MTTD from 34 to under 5 minutes
- Reduced Docker image sizes by 37% and CI build times by 42%
- Participated in on-call rotations and drove RCA for production incidents, reducing recurring incident rate by 68% over 2 quarters
- Managed secrets/SSO via Vault and Keycloak, integrating OIDC and SAML authentication across environments
- Integrated Trivy for container image scanning, Snyk for dependency/IaC scanning, and OPA/Gatekeeper for Kubernetes policy enforcement, catching security issues pre-deployment
- Adopted Terragrunt to remove duplicated Terraform code and reduce state-management errors across 14 environments
- Configured MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, ClickHouse, Redis, Kafka, RabbitMQ, HAProxy, and Zabbix via Ansible on Terraform-provisioned infrastructure for other teams
- Centralized build artifacts and Docker images in Nexus, replacing scattered per-project storage and enforcing retention policies to control storage costs
- Applied FinOps principles in a cross-cloud cost analysis (AWS vs. GCP/GKE, Azure/AKS) using AWS Cost Explorer and provider pricing calculators, confirming AWS as most cost-effective
- Mentored 2 junior engineers on Kubernetes and CI/CD, shortening onboarding from 5 to 2 weeks

Technical Support Specialist

Apr 2022 — Nov 2023

[ELEKS](#)

Kraków, Poland

- Automated deployment of WAF components (NGINX and modules) using Ansible and GitLab CI/CD, reducing deployment time from 5 hours to 38 minutes and significantly reducing errors caused by manual deployments and updates
- Designed and implemented Prometheus metrics with custom exporters written in Go, Python, and Bash, and managed Alertmanager alerting rules and Loki log aggregation to monitor the WAF platform, improving detection of traffic anomalies and system degradation
- Managed Docker containers (creation, deletion, log inspection) supporting a microservices-based WAF platform, and monitored Kubernetes-based container deployments as an end user
- Managed secrets in Vault (creation, rotation, deletion) for use in GitLab CI/CD pipelines, securing credentials for automated WAF deployments
- Deployed and managed PostgreSQL and RabbitMQ instances supporting the WAF platform's data storage and messaging needs
- Participated in PagerDuty on-call rotations, responding to 118+ incidents (including DDoS attacks and network security events) tracked in Jira, using the ELK Stack, Grafana, and Sentry for triage and error tracking, resolving incidents within SLA
- Authored 13+ RCA and post-mortem reports, using SQL queries to analyze incident data and driving process changes that reduced repeat incidents
- Queried ClickHouse as an end user to investigate high-volume WAF traffic logs during incident analysis
- Managed 22+ dedicated Linux servers and 13+ virtual machines supporting a highly available Web Application Firewall (WAF) platform, maintaining 99.9% SLA uptime
- Created 6 Confluence knowledge base articles and mentored two L2 support engineers, reducing escalations to L3 by 33%

- Managed 11+ Linux servers using Ansible (Infrastructure as Code) to automate installation, configuration, and updates of internal services, ensuring accuracy of network resources
- Deployed and managed Docker containers on Linux servers to run isolated internal services
- Managed 214+ Windows workstations using Puppet and Active Directory to deploy updates, application configurations, and other large-scale changes across the organization
- Installed and configured VMware ESXi hosts to provision and maintain virtualized server infrastructure
- Updated inventory data for 7 server racks in NetBox, improving hardware maintenance and manual verification
- Mentored an intern on Linux and virtualization fundamentals, accelerating onboarding and technical proficiency

SKILLS

- Cloud: AWS (EC2, EKS, ECS, S3, IAM, CloudFront, Route 53, Lambda, RDS, DynamoDB, SNS, SQS)
- Container & Orchestration: Kubernetes, Docker, Helm, Kustomize, Istio, Container Orchestration
- IaC & Automation: Terraform, Terragrunt, Ansible, Puppet, GitOps, Argo CD, Configuration Management
- CI/CD: GitLab CI, SonarQube, Nexus
- Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Alertmanager, OpenTelemetry, ELK Stack, Sentry, Zabbix, VictoriaMetrics
- Security & Identity: Vault, Keycloak, SAML, DevSecOps, Vulnerability Scanning, Snyk, Trivy, OPA/Gatekeeper
- Networking: nginx, HAProxy, Load Balancing
- Databases: PostgreSQL, MySQL, MongoDB, ClickHouse, Redis, Apache Kafka, RabbitMQ
- Programming: Go, Python, Bash
- Reliability & Cost: Incident Response, RCA, On-call Support, Chaos Engineering, Capacity Planning, Disaster Recovery, SLA, High Availability, FinOps
- Other: Linux, Git, Active Directory, VMware ESXi, NetBox, Jira, Confluence
- Familiar With (evaluated / limited hands-on exposure): GCP (GKE), Azure (AKS, Azure DevOps Services), Jenkins, Datadog, Okta

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

Higher School of Economics

Bachelor's Degree, Computer Science

Moscow, Russia

Sep 2020 — Jul 2024

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate, Amazon Web Services

Aug 2026 — Aug 2029

PROJECTS

Personal Blog, Personal Blog on Serverless AWS Infrastructure (alexanderbakin.com)

Jan 2020 — Present

- Designed and built a production static site architecture on AWS: Hugo static site served via S3 (private, encrypted) behind CloudFront with Origin Access Control, Route 53 for DNS, and ACM for TLS
- Built two independent GitHub Actions pipelines (infrastructure via Terraform, content via S3 sync) with OIDC-based auth, eliminating long-lived AWS credentials
- Runs at approximately \$0.63/month, with a deliberate cost/security tradeoff analysis behind each architectural decision