Sebastian Blank
Technical Lead

Hi, I am Sebastian, an experienced Technical Lead and Senior DevOps Engineer specializing in the architecture, deployment, and management of integration platforms within distributed cloud and hybrid environments. Adept at designing Kafka and API management architectures, orchestrating cloud-native infrastructure, and implementing CI/CD pipelines. Proven track record of delivering high-performance, scalable solutions for enterprise clients. Skilled in managing complex integration projects, defining best practices, and collaborating with multi-disciplinary teams.

✉ sebastian@blankk.it

▨ blankk.it

in linkedin.com/in/sebastian-blank-it

SKILLS

Integration Architecture   Cloud Architecture   API Management   Go   Terraforms   Ansible

Hybrid Cloud   GCP   API Gateway   Python   Service Mesh   Kafka   Kubernetes   GitLab   CI/CD

WORK EXPERIENCE

Technical Lead Integration Platform
Freelancer

07/2024 – Present   *Vienna, Austria*
Integration Project for REWE International

Achievements/Tasks

- Developing a comprehensive global standards framework for integration, addressing both synchronous RESTful APIs and asynchronous Kafka-based APIs.
- Leading the architectural design of a unified integration platform to merge the infrastructure and self-service platforms of two distinct organizations.
  - Defining API Management and API Gateway architecture strategies.
  - Designing an optimized Kafka infrastructure and architecture.
  - Creating a custom Kubernetes Operator architecture to enhance platform orchestration.
- Crafting a detailed migration strategy for an existing Kafka cluster, managing ~2700 schemas, ~200 connectors, and ~1000 topics.
- Orchestrating the integration and operational transition of RabbitMQ and Istio services, ensuring seamless handover and continued performance.

Senior DevOps Engineer
Freelancer

01/2022 – 06/2024
Integration Platform Project for REWE International

Achievements/Tasks

- Designed and configured a high-performance integration platform based on Confluent Kafka Community Edition within distributed hybrid cloud environment (GCP).
- Utilized Ansible for the provisioning of Kafka resources, ensuring seamless deployment and scalability.
- Implemented a robust Kafka disaster-recovery process using MirrorMaker 2, enhancing data resilience.
- Configured cloud infrastructure components and services with Terraform (GCP, Aiven) to ensure efficient resource management.
- Developed an external AKHQ authentication service using Go, enhancing security.
- Collaborated on internal Kubernetes Operators written in Go to streamline container orchestration.
- Worked closely with platform teams to establish best practices for Kafka integration in Spring Boot applications.
- Successfully rolled out Kong Service Mesh in a multi-cluster/multi-mesh setup for improved service management.
- Orchestrated GitLab CI/CD Pipelines for automated configuration provisioning, optimizing deployment processes.

Senior Integration Consultant

CAS AG

04/2018 - 12/2021   *International*
Integration Project at ISS Facility Services Holding
Achievements/Tasks

- Led the sizing and installation of a high-availability integration platform on VMs, deploying Red Hat Linux and key components such as IBM API Connect, IBM DataPower Gateway, IBM MQ, and IBM Integration Bus.
- Orchestrated the integration of a central data hub based on MongoDB and API enhancements for non-transactional data.
- Developed RESTful API services for legacy systems, implementing various integration patterns.
- Installed and configured GitLab on Red Hat Linux, designing and implementing associated CI/CD processes.
- Executed hundreds of synchronous and asynchronous integrations using different protocols and services, including JMS, MQ, HTTPS, SFPT, LDAP, SOAP WS, SAP OData Restful APIs, and JDBC.
- Implemented authentication mechanisms like OAuth2, Basic Auth, and Certificate-Based Authentication.
- Conducted stress test scenarios with JMeter to ensure the performance and reliability of the integration platform and associated systems.

Integration Consultant

CAS AG

01/2018 - 04/2018   *Essen, Germany*
API Integration Project for a Retail Company
Achievements/Tasks

- Successfully sized and installed an integration platform, featuring IBM API Connect, IBM Data Power Gateway, and IBM Integration Bus 10.
- Designed and implemented an efficient API Management environment.
- Executed multiple integrations with SAP PI Web Services and custom retail system APIs.
- Implemented authentication services for the monitoring system using Spring Boot.

Integration Consultant

CAS AG

08/2017 - 12/2017,   *Garching, Germany*
Monitoring Project for a Global Retail Company
Achievements/Tasks

- Installed and configured IBM Integration Bus 9 on Docker for improved monitoring capabilities.
- Created an API services facade to streamline interactions with legacy systems and SAP.
- Implemented various integrations to connect the newly developed ecommerce shop with internal systems.

Application Manager ESB

CBR Fashion Operations GmbH

08/2016 - 07/2017,   *Celle, Germany*
Achievements/Tasks

- Managed the maintenance and optimization of the existing Oracle integration platform.
- Refactored and improved existing integrations.
- Oversaw the migration of the OS virtualization layer from VMware to Oracle VM and upgraded to Oracle Service Bus 12c.
- Coordinated business integration requirements, leading the CR management process.
- Implemented a service management gateway for SFTP and Database Service using Python.

Integration Specialist ESB

CBR Fashion Operations GmbH

08/2013 - 07/2016,   *Celle, Germany*
conn@ct – IT Transformation Project
Achievements/Tasks

- Installed and configured JEE Oracle Service Bus 11g integration platform.
- Implemented approximately 100 integrations using distributed messaging via WebLogic JMS and SOAP Web Services.
- Oversaw the migration of the OS virtualization layer from VMware to Oracle VM and upgraded to Oracle Service Bus 12c.
- Designed and configured a business monitoring approach using Oracle Business Transaction Monitoring.
- Developed an integration services management platform based on JSP.

EDUCATION

Applied Information Technology
Wilhelm Büchner Hochschule
02/2014 - 02/2018

Technical IT Assistant
Sabine Blindow-Schule
02/2011 - 02/2013