Abel González Vidal

Senior Platform Engineer

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Madrid, Spain · Remote (EU)

Summary

25 years in software. I design and run AWS and Kubernetes platforms with high availability and defined SLOs, and act as incident commander when things break. I was a developer first, so I build with the platform's users in mind.

Experience

Platform Lead · Nextail — Nov 2017 – present · Remote

Nextail is a B2B SaaS that uses AI to optimise inventory for fashion brands.

- Lead the platform team that provides infrastructure and tooling to 30 engineers.
- Designed the AWS/EKS infrastructure with Kubernetes, Helm, Ansible, Terraform and CircleCI. Clusters scale between 50 and 200 nodes, with high availability and defined SLOs. Own their lifecycle: version upgrades, operators and production troubleshooting.
- Set up the multi-account AWS structure, with centralised access through AWS SSO.
- Enabled teams to create services on their own, without needing to know Kubernetes, using guardrails built on helm template. Service creation went from 3 days to 1 hour.
- Built a Kubernetes Jobs scheduler in Go with queues, configurable concurrency and parameterised resources. In production for 7 years.
- Own the engineering and vendor budget. Cut the AWS bill by 88% in 10 months by giving each team visibility into its own spend and by optimising the infrastructure.
- Lead AI adoption in engineering: develop daily with Claude Code, help teams bring it into their work, and manage the tools and their budget company-wide.
- Set up observability: Datadog for logs and tracing, Prometheus and Grafana for metrics.
- Act as incident commander, run postmortems and have led on-call rotations.
- Improved application availability through metrics-based autoscaling.
- Added automated secret and vulnerability scanning with Trivy to the teams' pipelines.
- Rolled out Okta (SSO) company-wide, federated with the Entra ID of enterprise clients who required it before signing.

Integrations Team Manager · Hundredrooms — Feb 2016 – Nov 2017 · Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Hundredrooms is a price comparison site for holiday rentals.

- Led 6 engineers who built and ran high-throughput scrapers, with RabbitMQ and MongoDB, across Booking.com, Airbnb and other accommodation providers.
- Optimised the real-time price and availability pipelines.
- This is where I learned Google Cloud in depth and started doing platform work.

Earlier experience

Software Engineer · TheMotion. Render farm for After Effects videos, built on AWS Auto Scaling. 2014 – 2016

Software Engineer · Gigas. Python on virtualisation (KVM, libvirt) at a cloud provider. 2012 – 2014

Founder & CTO · Infohostal.com. Travel website that reached 2 million monthly visits. Led a team of 5 developers. PHP, MySQL, Memcached. 2005 – 2011

Software Engineer · PRISA. Web development for the newspapers El País and AS. PHP, MySQL, Java. 2000 – 2005

Skills, education & languages

Certifications	AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate (2024)
Languages	Python, Go, Bash, Ruby, PHP
Cloud & containers	AWS, Google Cloud, Docker, Kubernetes (EKS), Helm
IaC & CI/CD	Terraform, Ansible, CircleCI, Trivy
Observability, identity & cost	Datadog, Prometheus, Grafana, Okta, Kubecost
Education	BSc in Computer Engineering, UDIMA (2023 – in progress)
Spoken languages	Spanish (native) · English (full professional)