

Rob op den Kelder

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Work Authorization: EU Citizen & UK Settled Status

Principal Software Engineer | Technology Strategy | Enterprise Architecture | Azure & AI

Summary

Hands-on Principal Forward-Deployed Software Engineer and Solutions Leader with 15+ years co-engineering scalable Azure cloud and AI solutions side-by-side with enterprise clients across Energy, Aviation, and Finance. Proven expertise driving developer velocity through GenAI/Copilot, leading multidisciplinary teams (40+), and delivering reusable solution architectures for complex enterprise environments.

Technical expertise

- **Cloud & Distributed Systems:** Microsoft Azure (Solutions Architect Expert), Cloud-Native Architecture, VNET Networking, Private Endpoints, Microservices, Enterprise Integration.
- **Core Technologies & Frameworks:** C#/.NET, .NET Aspire, React.js, PowerShell, Bicep, Terraform; hands-on evaluation of Rust, Go, and Apache Kafka.
- **Data & Azure Cloud Stack:** Azure Functions (Durable & Event-Driven), Web Apps, Event Grid, SQL, NoSQL (Cosmos DB, Table Storage), Power BI.
- **Engineering Operations & Security:** Infrastructure as Code, Azure DevOps, CI/CD, DevSecOps (Fortify, SonarQube), Security-First Design.
- **Strategic Leadership & Delivery:** Architecture Governance, Customer Technical Enablement, Agile Delivery, Vendor & Stakeholder Management.

Work experience

Principal consultant	Transavia	April 2023 - Present
Transavia HR & CSP technologies	Schiphol, Amsterdam Area, The Netherlands	
- Generative AI & Engineering Enablement: Drove Copilot adoption through live AI demonstrations, upskilled in agentic workflows to drive platform innovation, and elevated engineering standards via PR reviews, technical mentorship, and proactive documentation. - Cross-Border Integration & Zero Trust Modernization: Architected integration patterns across cross-border teams (including Transavia France) and external travel vendors to accelerate partner onboarding, and guided Transavia engineering teams through migration to Transavia's Zero Trust Azure estate in partnership with the CCoE. - B2B API Security & Risk Governance: Developed production-grade PoCs to harden external B2B API security and partnered with Security Officers to resolve third-party integration risks. - Legacy Modernization & Cost Reduction: Replaced an AS-400 crew evaluation tool with event-driven Azure serverless (Event Grid, Functions, Storage), enabling AS-400 decommissioning and saving €48k/year in mainframe run costs. - Crew Compensation Automation: Architected a .NET Aspire, Durable Functions, and Power BI platform to automate manual crew compensation, saving 1 FTE and delivering executive analytics.		

Independent Technical Advisor

Jun 2022 - March 2023

Architecture Advisory

The Hague Area, The Netherlands

- **Architecture & Security Audit:** Conducted end-to-end technical assessments for a client following third-party vendor delivery, providing strategic recommendations on code maintainability, security posture, and system scalability.

Principal Software Engineer / Architect

KPMG LLP

Oct 2015 - May 2022

KPMG Technologies

Canary Wharf, London, United Kingdom

(Promotions: Experienced Technical Lead, Feb 2017 - Oct 2018 | Senior Software Engineer, Oct 2015 - Feb 2017)

- **Microsoft Co-Engineering & Strategic Engagement:** Partnered with embedded **Microsoft CSE** teams on multi-week sprints to optimize platform performance, while joining business leaders at **Microsoft HQ in Redmond** to deliver client product demos and lead technical feedback sessions with **Microsoft Teams product leadership** to shape tool roadmaps.
- **Hands-On Cloud Engineering:** Engineered and deployed scalable, event-driven microservices on Microsoft Azure (C#.NET / Azure Services), delivering the core technical solution that secured **nine-figure in multi-year UK government contracts**.
- **Hands-on Technical Leadership:** Mentored and led **40+ globally distributed engineers** across DevOps, Data, QA, and Software. Provided technical authority for product architecture while conducting code reviews, pen testing, and CI/CD security automation.
- **Multi-Cloud Expertise:** Architected solutions across both Azure and AWS environments using C#.NET, PowerShell, React.js, and Infrastructure as Code (Terraform).

Freelance Senior Software Engineer

Kelderro

Nov 2014 - Oct 2015

Custom Software & Client Delivery

The Hague Area, The Netherlands

- **Custom Software & Client Delivery:** Delivered custom software projects for a medium-sized business end-to-end, from initial client engagement through final delivery.

Consultant: Senior Software Engineer

CGI, Royal Dutch Shell

Sep 2010 - Nov 2014

Shell Finance Department and Shell technology The Hague, The Netherlands

- **Global Reservoir Tracking System & SME Collaboration:** Partnered with Reservoir Engineers to modernize a global reservoir management system tracking worldwide oil reserves, streamlining volume reporting and **global asset visibility**.
- **Market-Sensitive System Modernization:** Modernized a legacy platform for market-sensitive financial data, establishing automated pipelines that cut release cycles from a full day to minutes while digitizing JML workflows across SAP and other financial systems for **100% SOX compliance**.

Education and Certifications

- **Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert** Microsoft | 2019 - Present
- **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science** University of Applied Sciences, Rotterdam

Outside work activities

- **Pro Bono IT Strategy Advisor | Non-Profit Organizations / Small Businesses:** Trusted advisor to non-technical leaders across local non-profits, including leading IT procurement for an animal shelter; translated vendor proposals into clear business guidance.
- **Team Captain, Ingress (Augmented Reality Gaming):** Led field teams in fast-paced live events across unfamiliar cities, making real-time tactical decisions.