

# Carlos Parada

## Senior DevOps / Platform Engineer · Kubernetes · AI-Native Tooling

carlos@parada.co.uk · linkedin.com/in/carlos-parada-lamela · British / Spanish

Senior platform engineer with deep, hands-on **Kubernetes** expertise and a 20-year grounding in UNIX, infrastructure and cloud. I design and operate **multi-tenant Kubernetes platforms** end to end — from custom kubeadm clusters to managed **AWS EKS** — with GitOps delivery, a strong security posture and real cost discipline. Most recently I lead **AI-native platform engineering**: building team-shared Claude Code skills, MCP/agent integrations and spec-driven (BMAD) workflows that automate Day-2 operations and change how a platform team builds. CKA, CKAD and CKS certified.

### KEY SKILLS & TECHNOLOGIES

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**Containers & Orchestration:** Kubernetes, Docker, Helm, Kustomize, kubeadm, AWS EKS

**AI-Native Engineering:** Claude / Claude Code, MCP servers & tool integrations, spec-driven development (BMAD), agentic workflow & runbook automation

**Cloud:** AWS, OpenStack

**Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Terragrunt

**GitOps & CI/CD:** Argo CD, Argo Workflows, Concourse CI, Renovate

**Programming & Scripting:** Go, Python, Bash

**Security:** Aqua Security, Wiz, Kubernetes & cloud hardening, policy enforcement, mTLS via Linkerd service mesh

**Observability:** Prometheus, Thanos, Grafana, Loki

**Operating Systems:** Debian/Ubuntu, RHEL/CentOS, multiple UNIX flavours

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

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#### NearForm — Remote, UK

**Senior DevOps Engineer** · November 2019 – Present

Lead platform engineer for a major client in the business-management SaaS space, owning a multi-tenant Kubernetes platform end to end.

#### KUBERNETES & PLATFORM ENGINEERING

- Migrated the client's infrastructure and deployment pipelines onto Kubernetes — moving hundreds of tenants across multiple cross-regional Kubernetes clusters.
- Designed and built multiple custom Kubernetes clusters with kubeadm, then led the migration to managed **AWS EKS**.
- Provisioned all cloud infrastructure as code with **Terraform / Terragrunt** (DRY), following immutable-infrastructure principles.
- Built the GitOps delivery model on **Argo CD** for cluster add-ons and customer applications; packaged workloads with Helm and Kustomize.
- Implemented CI/CD on **Concourse CI** for cluster provisioning and Day-2 operations — cluster patching and image promotion across environments.
- Operate the platform's **blue/green node-group** strategy for zero-downtime cluster and add-on rollouts.
- Owned the security and shift-left programme: Kubernetes and cloud hardening, rollout of **Aqua Security** and **Wiz**, and in-transit encryption via a **Linkerd** service mesh (CKS-certified).
- Built and run the observability stack: Prometheus, Thanos, Grafana and Loki.
- Drive **FinOps** cost-optimisation of cloud resources.

## AI-NATIVE ENGINEERING

- Pioneered AI-native platform engineering for the team: authored and maintain a library of **shared Claude Code skills** that codify operational runbooks — cluster login, add-on blue/green flips, dependency-PR automation, PR-to-Slack — cutting toil and standardising Day-2 operations.
- Introduced **spec-driven AI development (BMAD)** — brainstorm → plan → implement — to standardise how the team builds with AI agents.
- Built **MCP server and tool integrations** connecting agents to GitHub, Slack, Kubernetes and AWS for automated workflows.
- Apply AI-assisted tooling to accelerate Helm, Terraform and GitOps authoring and Day-2 automation.
- Automated dependency management across platform repositories with **Renovate**.

### Zopa — London

**Senior Site Reliability Engineer** · June 2018 – October 2019

- Architected and supported infrastructure across AWS and on-premises VMware, with a strong zero-trust emphasis fitting a regulated financial business.
- Created and supported multiple Kubernetes clusters through to production.
- Infrastructure as code with Terraform modules and immutable infrastructure; automation tooling in Python, Go and Bash.
- Built CI/CD pipelines in Jenkins and Concourse CI; managed Helm releases as code with Helmsman.
- Ran HashiCorp Vault, Kafka and Redis clusters; owned DNS zones (PowerDNS, Active Directory) and self-hosted collaboration tooling (Jira, Confluence).

### Sky — London

**Site Reliability Engineer** · August 2017 – June 2018

- SRE in Sky's Content & Discovery area, also embedded with development teams; supported infrastructure across the UK, Germany and Italy.
- Cloud-agnostic, immutable infrastructure as code with Terraform across AWS, GCP and OpenStack.
- Led the transition from Rancher/Docker deployments to Mesosphere and Kubernetes, with a focus on observability.

### Sky — London

**DevOps Engineer** · August 2016 – August 2017

- DevOps role with a strong persistence focus — Cassandra, MongoDB and Couchbase clusters.
- Developed and maintained Ansible and Puppet modules; managed AWS and OpenStack resources.
- Docker image development; test-driven infrastructure with Test Kitchen and ServerSpec.

### Betfair — London

**Platform Engineer** · March 2015 – August 2016

- Linux platform engineering across Citrix XenServer and OpenStack virtual machines.
- Configuration management with Puppet; SAN storage administration.

### Earlier Career — Madrid (2003 – 2015)

- UNIX/Linux systems administration, SAN storage and operations across **Atos Origin, Hewlett-Packard, SHS-POLAR, Cibernos** and **Qualitas** — progressing from batch operations and web design into enterprise UNIX (HP-UX, Solaris), storage and automation. A long grounding in large-scale, mission-critical infrastructure.

## CERTIFICATIONS

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- **CKAD** — Certified Kubernetes Application Developer (2024)
- **CKS** — Certified Kubernetes Security Specialist (2022)
- **CKA** — Certified Kubernetes Administrator (2021)
- **RHCE** — Red Hat Certified Engineer (2014)
- **RHCSA** — Red Hat Certified System Administrator (2012)
- **HP-UX CSE** — Certified System Engineer, Virtualization specialty (2011)
- **HP-UX CSA** — Certified System Administrator, HP-UX 11iv3 (2008)

## LANGUAGES

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**English** — Proficient · **Spanish** — Native