



KURT PORTELLI

HEAD OF ENGINEERING

CONTACT

+35679281192

kurtportelli@gmail.com

Malta

kurtportelli.com

linkedin.com/in/kurtportelli

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

Experienced

Java (Spring), Typescript (Nest/Next),
Bash, Python

Limited Experience:

C#, Django, FastApi, C/C++, Unity,
OpenCV/CV, PHP, Laravel, Wordpress

CI/CD

Gitlab, Github, ArgoCD, Bitbucket,
Jenkins, SonarQube

OS & TOOLS

Linux (CentOS, Ubuntu), Windows,
Kafka, RabbitMQ, ActiveMQ, Apache,
Nginx, WHM/cPanel, Zabbix,
Prometheus, Grafana, OpenVPN,
VMware, Zookeeper, HAProxy, Varnish,
Hadoop, HBase, Terraform, Ansible,
Docker, K8s



PROFILE

I am an experienced tech leader with a strong academic background and industry expertise across startups and established enterprises. With a hands-on leadership approach, I have successfully led development and DevOps teams, optimising infrastructure and streamlining workflows.

I excel at bridging the gap between technical and operational stakeholders, ensuring clear communication and effective collaboration. With a deep understanding of Agile methodologies and SDLCs, I work autonomously, stay delivery-focused, and drive innovation, scalability, and security with a results-driven mindset. My passion lies in solving complex challenges and delivering impactful solutions.



WORK EXPERIENCE

Head of Engineering

2021 - PRESENT

Red Acre | Malta

- Led the DevOps, SRE, QA, IT, and Physical Infrastructure teams while working closely with Heads of Development and Product.
- Designed system architecture to facilitate feature development and ensure stability.
- Spearheaded the implementation of Kubernetes, ArgoCD, and GitHub Actions, streamlining deployment processes.
- Implemented an on-call rotation system with comprehensive monitoring and alerting using the Grafana Prometheus stack, enabling a proactive approach to issue detection and resolution.
- My responsibilities extended to managing various trading and brokerage services which led to the creation of 2 startup companies; tradelocker.com & funderpro.com
- Worked closely with development teams to optimize AWS infrastructure, ensuring cost efficiency through automation, scaling strategies, and resource optimization best practices.

Senior Java Developer & DevOps Team Lead

2017 - 2021

Blexr | Malta

- Developed an affiliate revenue tracking platform to address a critical gap in the affiliate industry.
- As the platform matured, I took ownership of the product, with my responsibilities expanding beyond development and into the business aspects.
- During a period of rapid growth within the company I was promoted to the DevOps Team lead role.
- I played a pivotal role in the creation of a secure, high-availability infrastructure capable of handling high-traffic loads across hundreds of web projects leveraging key AWS services such as EC2, RDS, ECS, and S3.
- Led the adoption of Infrastructure as Code with Terraform and implemented CI/CD across all company products, reducing production issues and streamlining developer workflows. Also contributed to network security, DDoS mitigation, comprehensive monitoring, VPN integration, and centralized authentication management.
- Designed and implemented a Redshift-based data warehouse, leveraging AWS Glue to process and analyse user tracking data for Blexr's digital operations.

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DATABASES

MySQL, MariaDB, MongoDB,
Percona, PostgreSQL

HOSTING SERVICES

AWS, DigitalOcean, Cloudflare

OTHER TOOLING

Atlassian Suite, Linear, PagerDuty



EDUCATION

M.Sc in Data Science

University of Glasgow
2015 - 2016

B.Sc. ICT Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence

University of Malta
2010 - 2013

Secondary & Higher Education

St Aloysius College, Malta



CERTIFICATIONS

SAFe® 4 Certified Scrum Master

Scaled Agile, Inc.
2018

SAFe® 4 Certified Agilist

Scaled Agile, Inc.
2017

Tutor

2015 - 2017

University of Glasgow

- During my postgraduate studies in Glasgow I was employed by the University of Glasgow to tutor a variety of courses: Professional Software Development, Web Application Development and Computer Systems.
- This involved mentoring, overseeing and marking work done by students in the lab/tutorials.

Software Engineer

2012 - 2015

CCBill | Malta

- Part of the team developing PhoenixNAP, a cloud portal allowing clients to manage virtual machines, load balancers, firewalls, and network storage with scalable growth options.
- During this period, I was actively involved in the company's transition from a waterfall methodology to agile. Effective communication was essential, as the development teams were distributed across Malta, Serbia, and the United States.
- My main accomplishments;
 - Migrated application to Spring OAuth2
 - Creation of a mocked VMware vSphere
 - Split a monolith application into microservices
 - Migrated from an older Spring framework to Spring Boot



PUBLICATIONS

Portelli, K. and Anagnostopoulos, C. (2017) Leveraging Edge Computing through Collaborative Machine Learning.

In: 2017 5th IEEE International Conference on Future Internet of Things and Cloud Workshops (FiCloudW), Prague, Czech Republic, 21-23 Aug 2017, pp. 164-169. ISBN 9781538632819 ([doi:10.1109/FiCloudW.2017.72](https://doi.org/10.1109/FiCloudW.2017.72))

Donaldson, P., Ntarmos, N. and Portelli, K. (2017) A Systematic Review of the Potential of Machine Learning and Data Science in Primary and Secondary Education.

Discussion Paper. Royal Society (<https://eprints.gla.ac.uk/151244/>)

Popescu, I., Portelli, K., Anagnostopoulos, C. and Ntarmos, N. (2018) The Case for Graph-Based Recommendations.

In: 2017 IEEE International Conference on Big Data (IEEE BigData 2017), Boston, MA, USA, 11-14 Dec 2017, pp. 4819-4821. ISBN 9781538627150 ([doi:10.1109/BigData.2017.8258553](https://doi.org/10.1109/BigData.2017.8258553))