

Babak Doraniarab

Senior Platform Engineer & DevOps Architect — Kubernetes · Kong · Vault · AWS · Terraform

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DAY RATE €750–950	AVAILABILITY October 2026	WORK MODE 100% Remote	TIME ZONES EU & UK	CONTRACTING B2B via DoTech Oy
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UK: outside IR35 engagements only · EU: B2B contracting via DoTech Oy (Finland) · HashiCorp Terraform certified · English full professional

18 years building and running production platforms; most recently 4 years as Senior Platform Engineer at Jaja Finance (UK FinTech), owning the Kubernetes platform end to end — EKS and self-managed clusters, the full Kong API Gateway lifecycle, HashiCorp Vault Enterprise, and GitOps delivery with Argo CD.

SELECTED ENGAGEMENT RESULTS — JAJA FINANCE (FINTECH, 2022–PRESENT)

Kong API Gateway: 1.5 → 3.4 in production, ~25M requests/day

Sole owner of the API gateway layer carrying all production API traffic (~25 million requests/day) for a UK bank's platform — traffic management, routing, plugin development — and planned and executed the multi-major-version migration with minimal service disruption.

Kubernetes 1.21 → 1.35 & FinOps: AWS spend cut from \$2.0M to \$1.4M/year (~30%)

Full cluster lifecycle ownership across EKS + self-managed — reliability, scaling, ingress, Helm, upgrades — with Terraform-provisioned AWS, Argo CD GitOps delivery and Datadog observability.

HashiCorp Vault Enterprise: 1.10 → 1.19

Ran secrets, identity and service discovery (Vault, Consul, Keycloak) for regulated workloads; executed enterprise upgrades while maintaining high availability of authentication and access control.

CORE SKILLS

Kubernetes — EKS + self-managed, cluster lifecycle, Helm, ingress, zero-downtime upgrades

Secrets & Security — Vault Enterprise, Consul, Keycloak, privileged access management

Cloud / AWS — EKS, EC2, RDS, S3, MSK/Kafka, Bedrock; FinOps & cost optimisation

Observability — Datadog (metrics, logs, alerting, dashboards), ELK

Programming — Python (primary), Go, Bash, JavaScript/Node.js

API Gateway — deep Kong expertise, production migrations, plugin development, ingress controller

IAc & Automation — Terraform (certified), CDKTF, Ansible, Puppet

CI/CD & GitOps — Argo CD, GitHub Actions, Jenkins

AI / LLM Infra — RAG pipelines (LiteLLM, ChromaDB), AWS Bedrock, custom MCP tooling

Networking — CCNP-level: BGP, HAProxy, DNS, firewalling

EXPERIENCE SNAPSHOT

2022–present **Senior Platform Engineer (DevOps), Jaja Finance** — UK FinTech, fully remote

2022 **Senior DevOps Consultant, Eficode** — Helsinki

2016–2022 **Freelance DevOps & full-stack engineer** — Kubernetes, AWS, CI/CD, LAMP/MERN

2007–2016 **Senior network / VoIP engineering & CCNA/CCNP instruction (900+ students)** — enterprise Cisco, Asterisk, FortiWeb

BUILDING & COMMUNITY

FreeZenith (freezenith.com) — self-hostable internal developer platform (Backstage, Argo CD, Cilium, Kyverno, Falco, KEDA, Veler, VictoriaMetrics), open-sourcing soon — a full internal developer platform, free for startups and mid-sized teams.

Babak Academy (babakacademy.com) — founder of a free, hands-on community for DevOps and platform engineering: real sandbox terminals (Linux, Kubernetes, Docker) and practical scenarios for a growing community of engineers.

DoTech Oy — my Finnish consultancy; independent client work funds a lean team building B2B platform & security products and open-source tools for the community.