

FAT POTATO

COMPANY OVERVIEW





WHO WE ARE

Fat Potato are a unique, family operated SME founded in 2016 who've operated primarily in the defence sector. During this time we've grown and expanded our presence, having worked across multiple major projects where we've delivered high-quality software solutions in challenging and demanding environments. We've also got a range of proven expertise in a wide array of technical specialisms.

We primarily work with businesses to transform their legacy applications using modern Microservice driven architectures. We make use of cloud native technologies to enhance performance, reduce costs and improve the observability, relieving the support and maintenance burden of systems.

Whilst Fat Potato has a broad range of capabilities, we mainly focus on Software development. With most of our developers working on Cloud centric roles, many of our team are AWS certified to a high level, allowing for our staff to both inform, educate and help create the right solutions for our customers.

We take our environmental impact seriously and do our best to minimise it, adopting beneficial technology and working practices where we can. We have embraced distributed working technology, which gives employees more control of their work/life balance whilst reducing our carbon footprint from work related travel and office facility heating and utilities.



WHY FAT POTATO?

It is a guiding tenant of Fat Potato that our people are the fundamental foundation of our organisation. Skills can be taught, practises learnt, technologies studied, but our people are the singular constant throughout. Fat Potato hires primarily on aptitude and attitude, meaning there is a consistent “can do” attitude throughout our company.

We work in an industry where the only constant is change. We are building our business not just around the needs of today, but with people who can anticipate and get ahead of the needs of tomorrow.

Each one of our staff working for us has had glowing feedback from the start working with the customers they are assigned to. Every one of them has gone above and beyond in what they were asked, and as such, built an outstanding reputation for which we are known.

As our customers continue to take on new challenges and encounters unforeseen events, we are confident that we have the right people to make that change happen side-by-side with the customer, helping them in achieving their goals.



SOCIAL VALUES

Fat Potato has engaged in outreach programs, including taking on summer placements with our first intake last year. This has already shown some initial success, as when she joined us, our student was going to university to read Psychology. After the placement she changed her degree to Computer Science and attributed this to the scheme opening her eyes to an opportunity she hadn't considered possible.

In partnership with a customer, we have been volunteering developer and scrum master time towards a project for the Cotswold RDA (Riding for the Disabled). For the past two years we have been transforming and updating their old rider-tracking system to a Cloud Native AWS solution. In doing so, we have saved them over £25,000 a year in hosting and support costs.

This has allowed them to reinvest those funds back into the organisation to continue their great work in the local area, with the possibility of expanding it further and making equivalent saving throughout the UK.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING

Fat Potato understands that the location of many of our customers can act as a significant barrier to entry for many potential employees. Given the high living costs and expense of travel, we always endeavour to find work that is sensitive and supporting to the location and needs of each employee. This may include a higher percentage time for WFH, the provisioning of collaborative working environments (so employees can better make use of their time together) or simply allowing our employees to work compressed or reduced hours.

Due to our approach of treating each employee as an individual, we find we can often support those from a wider variety of backgrounds as there is no physical limitations imposed on them regarding where they live or how they work.

As part of our approach to employee development, everyone is given the opportunity to outline how they would like to progress their career. We aim to provide as little barrier to entry for this as possible and empower our employees to take advantage of any training means they see fit. This approach has enabled us to provide many skilled individuals into the domain in which we operate in.

For example, nearly all our employees have engaged in either formal or informal learning regarding Cloud development practises and skills, meaning we are well placed to continue growing as the customer continues its journey in this direction.

WHAT WE DO

Over the past 5 years, we have engaged and provided services in relation, but not limited to:

- Back & Front-End Software Development
- Organisation and Scrum Mastering of teams
- Cloud Architectural Design
- Air-gapped CI/CD Software Integration
- SRE and Mission Support
- Project/Delivery management of software teams

AWS PARTNER NETWORK

We are a recognised partner on the APN. Being an AWS Partner means having a close collaboration with Amazon Web Services (AWS), leveraging their expertise and resources to deliver innovative and high-quality solutions to clients.

It involves a commitment to upholding AWS's standards of excellence, staying updated on the latest technologies and best practices, and demonstrating proficiency in implementing cloud solutions that meet clients' needs effectively.

As an AWS Partner, we have access to training, support, and certification programs, enabling us to provide comprehensive services and support to clients leveraging AWS cloud services.



USER CENTRED DESIGN

When designing systems, users, and in particular the Accessibility of our systems is a cornerstone of our approach. Accessibility is planned in from the start, and as such, all FPL developed systems meet at least WCAG 2.1 AA standards.

To support our developers, we have a variety of training courses, blogs, and videos resources available. Our staff are then empowered to choose the most appropriate way to learn based upon their own personal style.

Fat Potato hosts its own “Technical Vault”, which is a Wiki of shared knowledge, best practice, training courses and resources to help with technical issues. All staff are encouraged to contribute and share their expertise.

There are several blogs on Accessibility written by the team to aid others, as well as a slack channel dedicated to Accessibility and design, enabling our staff across all our customers and projects to work together.

EXPERIENCE & CERTIFICATIONS

Whilst we believe certification is an important measurement, we know experience is required to backup and build on those learnings.

Fat Potato employees specialise in modern day technology solutions and frameworks. Some of these include, but not limited to, the following:

POLYGLOT PROGRAMMING



We embrace a Polyglot Programming approach, leveraging a diverse range of languages such as Java, Python, JavaScript (Node/React) and Go, combined with expertise in multiple database technologies and Cloud-native solutions.

SECURE BY DESIGN



We develop solutions that prioritise security from the ground up, integrating robust measures at every stage of development to ensure data integrity and protection against cyber threats.

CI/CD



We specialise in GitOps-driven development, combining the release process with Infrastructure as Code (CloudFormation, Terraform) to automate and optimise the deployment process.

SECURITY AND VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT



Integrating tools like Trivy, SonarQube and FindBugs into the build process to ensure every build is fully compliant with the latest security definitions.

TEST AND BUSINESS DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT (TDD/BDD)



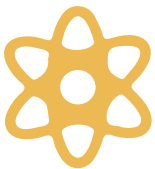
Our team employs a BDD approach alongside industry-leading testing frameworks such as Cucumber and Selenium to ensure that every line of code aligns with business objectives.

AGILE AND DEVOPS



We can support the development process through use of supporting roles, with certified Scrum Masters, Project Managers and Delivery Leads. We also look to support the complete delivery of software through the use of modern DevOps practices.

CONTAINERISATION



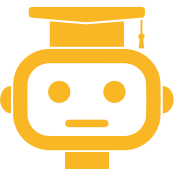
As early adopters of containerisation, we possess a deep expertise in Docker, Kubernetes, and associated AWS technologies like ECS and EKS. We always drive to provide a containerised first solution, allowing us to make use of Microservice driven architectures and serverless development patterns.

CNCF TECHNOLOGIES



We are experts in the Cloud native landscape, our engineers always seek to use the latest industry recommend tooling to provide the best solutions to our customer.

ETL FOR AI/ML



With a long history in high performance Extract, Transform, Load (ETL) processes, we can develop highly optimised AI/ML workflows, ensuring seamless data integration, cleansing, and preparation to drive insights and innovation in machine learning applications.

CERTIFICATIONS



Our employees undergo ongoing training, obtaining certifications at various levels including AWS Professional, Associate, and Practitioner, as well as certifications in Kubernetes Application Development, Kubernetes Administration, and Kubernetes for Web Developers.

CASE STUDIES

Whilst most of our work must remain confidential, we are able to share a few examples of where we have aided our customers at a high level.

HIGH VOLUME DATA PROCESSING

Whilst Fat Potato always aims to utilise Open-Source technologies to address common Engineering problems, sometimes that approach can lead to sub-optimal solutions. One such instance was where we were tasked to develop a replacement solution for an existing high-volume processing solution.

Historically, a traditional broker-based solution was used whereby several large, monolithic applications communicated via a centralised broker service for the distribution of their data. Whilst somewhat effective, this led to a very configuration heavy, unwieldy, and difficult to maintain system.

Instead of replicating the same pattern commonly found amongst the customers solutions, we created a lightweight, distributed, pub-sub microservice driven framework that would allow developers to quickly and easily create scalable services to process high volume data. This innovation allowed our (and subsequently several other teams who have used our framework) to easily create reliable services in a Cloud native or On-Prem environment. This work continues to today where new teams are using the framework to develop new functionality quickly and effectively for their prospective projects.

AWS RE-ARCHITECTURE

One of our customers was experiencing very high AWS monthly billing. Their system was developed in an ad-hoc manner over 4-5 years, and as such, was very behind on the latest AWS tooling, practises, and processes. Initially we performed an audit of their system, evaluated the current setup, and produced a new design that would improve security, reduce costs and minimise the carbon footprint.

We were asked to implement our proposal and migrate the customer over to the new platform we had designed. As part of our changes, we ensured that the new system was fully documented allowing our customers to be self-sufficient. We also reduced monthly running costs by over 50%.



ZERO TRUST ARCHITECTURE

At Fat Potato, we always adhere to approaches and principles of Zero Trust Architectures. As such, all our development, wherever possible, include strict access controls, minimal attack surfaces (both network and resources) and ensure that both staff devices are compliant with security updates and software updates.

One of our most recent developments that demonstrated this approach was a deployment to a restricted network. As part of the CI/CD pipeline, before any software can be deployed, we enforced a full battery of tests that include static code analysis, virus scans, double verification of git credentials and multiple vulnerability scans (at the application and container level).

Once this was completed, we packaged, signed, and sent the container to the target environment where further verification was undertaken to ensure that no tampering has occurred. On the customer site, we used Kubernetes RBAC policies as well as further supporting restrictions such as minimal accesses and strict controls between applications ensuring the highest level of security assurance.

Our policy as a company is to always be at the cutting edge of technology. As such, the side effects of this is that highly secure software comes by default. By not sticking with “what we know” and by constantly pushing the boundaries we frequently find ourselves setting the standard rather than having it imposed upon us.



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