

NIKLAS HEER

Engineering Manager | Developer Platforms | AWS & Kubernetes

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Engineering Manager with 6+ years of engineering leadership experience building teams and self-service platforms on AWS and Kubernetes. Led up to 26 people across 3 teams, grew a platform team from 5 to 11, and developed engineers through clear goals and delegated ownership. Directed platform modernization protecting €1.16 billion in annual GMV and set the roadmap for a developer platform spanning 24 services.

CORE COMPETENCIES

People Leadership | Organizational Design | Agile Delivery | Platform Strategy | Internal Developer Platforms | Developer Experience | AWS | Kubernetes | Amazon EKS | GitOps | Reliability | FinOps | AI-assisted Engineering | Python | GitLab CI/CD | Platform Architecture

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Engineering Manager Central Platform Services (CPS)

Tradebyte Software GmbH (Zalando Group) | Ansbach, Germany | 06/2024–Present

- Lead up to 9 platform and software engineers responsible for 24/7 shared services; completed a senior hire and supported an in-role promotion
- Set a 16-item roadmap for a self-service developer platform now spanning 24 services
- Led a multi-quarter modernization that advanced the Kubernetes estate through 1.31, moved shared tooling to EKS, improved GitLab reliability and retired Jenkins
- Led CPS's platform-side ISO 27001:2022 readiness work; Tradebyte achieved certification with zero nonconformities

Acting Head of Engineering Product & Tech Platform

Tradebyte Software GmbH (Zalando Group) | Ansbach, Germany | 10/2023–06/2024

- Managed up to 26 people across 3 teams and multi-million-euro annual cloud and software operating costs
- Led the design and adoption of an internal developer platform, onboarding 17 applications in one year using AWS EKS, Aurora, Argo CD, GitLab CI and Vault

Senior Team Lead Central Platform Services (CPS)

Tradebyte Software GmbH (Zalando Group) | Ansbach, Germany | 03/2022–10/2023

- Established the internal developer platform by bringing an agency-developed application in-house within one month; expanded the team from 5 to 11 and hired 6 people that year
- Improved lead time by 11%, cycle time by 34%, velocity by 20% and throughput by 16% by leading the adoption of Kanban
- Led a technical modernization protecting €1.16 billion in annual GMV across 44 customers

Team Lead Central Platform Services (CPS)

Tradebyte Software GmbH (Zalando Group) | Ansbach, Germany | 11/2019–03/2022

- Created and led the 6-person Central Platform Services team and delivered shared capabilities across network governance, AWS account management and GitLab

Earlier Experience

DevOps and Quality Engineer, Tradebyte | 08/2018–11/2019 — Managed a 16-month PHP migration across 20+ people and 6 teams without service interruption.

Software Developer / IT Specialist for Application Development, Tradebyte | 09/2015–08/2018 — Cut behavioral-test runtime from 40+ minutes to under 20 minutes using AWS EC2 Spot Instances.

Frontend Developer (working student), Bertsch Innovation and Sellaround | 01/2012–11/2015

SELECTED PROJECTS

speed-comparison | 2018–Present | <https://nheer.com/gh/speed-comparison> — Maintain a reproducible benchmark spanning 40+ programming languages with parallel CI and published results; attracted 700+ stars, 100+ forks and 50+ contributors.

Open-source portfolio | 2012–Present | <https://github.com/niklas-heer> — Maintain 70+ public repositories across Rust, Go, Python and TypeScript, covering developer tooling, automation, systems programming and language experiments.

EDUCATION

Certified Quality Manager | IHK Würzburg | 2018 - 2019 | Würzburg, Germany

IT Specialist Application Development | Berufsschule Ansbach | 2015 - 2017 | Ansbach, Germany

University studies (no degree) | Media Informatics & Software Engineering | 2010 - 2015 | Stuttgart & Birkenfeld, Germany

LANGUAGES

German (Native) | English (Proficient)