

PRACTITIONER PROFILE

Simon Daykin

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FORTY TWO FOLD

Structure that supports.
Empathy that empowers.
Expertise that enables.



Professional Profile

A senior technology and engineering leader with a track record of delivering complex, high-assurance, mission-critical systems across government, national infrastructure and global hyperscale cloud platforms. Combines deep technical expertise in enterprise architecture, cyber security, cloud engineering and large-scale digital transformation with the ability to influence senior stakeholders, shape strategy and lead multidisciplinary teams through high-stakes change. Operates as a trusted advisor to executives, bringing clarity to complexity, recovering challenged programmes, and enabling organisations to adopt secure, scalable technology with confidence.

Core Skills

Delivers secure, high-assurance, mission-critical technology by combining deep technical expertise with the ability to drive complex transformation and influence senior decision-makers with clarity and confidence.

- **Technology Leadership, Architecture & High-Assurance Engineering:** digital transformation, enterprise/solution architecture, secure-by-design engineering, and public/sovereign/private cloud
- **Cyber Security, Resilience & Mission-Critical Delivery:** secure and resilient systems, emerging technologies, high-risk environments, and recovery of complex programmes
- **People, Culture & Executive Influence:** leading multidisciplinary teams, building inclusive and psychologically safe cultures, shaping narratives, and influencing senior stakeholders

Career Highlights

Director of Engineering – Microsoft

February 2022 – October 2025

Led the International Sovereign Platform Team within Azure Edge & Platform, delivering secure cloud gateways, administration platforms, compliance services and Azure operations for first-of-type Hyperscale Sovereign Azure Clouds outside the US. Directed an Azure wide critical infrastructure service enabling recovery from rare events.

Key aspects included:

- Built and led a high performance, globally distributed engineering organisation, shaping strategy, multi jurisdiction accreditation and complex partner negotiations across security, technical and operational domains.
- Delivered major infrastructure modernisation, automation and AI/ML innovation, securing leadership backing for accelerated security, resilience and technical debt reduction.
- Oversaw the evolution and assurance of critical sovereign cloud services, ensuring secure-by-design engineering and alignment with broader Azure product direction.
- Key focus on advanced secure cross domain capabilities and services at scale, including innovative one-way API gateway [US Patent #12131206]

UK CTO – Leidos

November 2017 – November 2021

Led UK technology and engineering, driving strategy and integrating technical groups from multiple acquisitions into a unified, innovation-centric capability. Delivered digital transformation for mission-critical national IT systems.

Key aspects included:

- Led winning solutions for major national programmes including Home Office Biometrics and Metropolitan Police Command & Control, enabling secure cloud transformation of critical systems.
- Oversaw delivery across major portfolios (incl. MOJ SIAM, MOD LCS(T), Scottish Child Abuse Inquiry, ATC “Intelligent Approach”), while developing advanced AI/ML capabilities in hostile environments.
- Institutionalised collaborative engineering through Solution Peer Reviews, Centres of Excellence and “Super Connector” roles, strengthening technical quality and organisational cohesion.

Chief Architect – NATS (UK Air Traffic Control)

April 2013 – August 2017

Defined the integrated technical strategy for transforming the UK’s En-Route Air Traffic Control system, securing executive, board, regulator and customer support for a £750M transformation programme.

Key aspects included:

- Balanced legacy sustainment with strategic modernisation to deliver a secure, open-standard, digitally integrated ATC platform
- Built and led a 60-strong architecture and engineering design leadership function spanning entire stack including applications, middleware, infrastructure and cyber security
- Championed secure common infrastructure (Native MPLS/IP, highly assured cloud, ESB) and drove the shift to service-centric delivery through new Service Integration and Service Management frameworks.