



How to drive success on your  
**DevOps roadmap.**

# Introduction: what stops DevOps adoption?

Fast software delivery is a top priority for any technology-driven organisation looking to stay ahead of their competitors. Nearly 70% of CIOs have cited process automation and digital transformation as a top priority (Deloitte, 2019). IT leaders widely agree that adopting DevOps, the set of practices which enable development teams to ship code faster, is the means to achieving these ends.

However, shifting to a DevOps approach isn't easy, especially when existing methods of delivering software are in place. Development and operations teams aren't always cut from the same cloth. Breaking down the barriers between them can be a headache which many IT leaders are facing. Even when the potential to speed up delivery is beckoning, the difficulties which must be overcome can stop DevOps adoption in its tracks.

To add to the challenges, the UK is suffering from a massive technology talent shortage, and the chasm is only growing. As cited in our article "Bridging the Technology Skills Gap", finding experienced, capable people is the key factor for success.

Simply put, scaling an in-house DevOps capability is expensive and takes a long time, and outsourcing can lead to trouble when the outsourcer is not equipped to handle true agile delivery.

This article examines the key skills which make up a great DevOps engineer, from both a technical and soft-skills perspective. It also looks at how Godel has been driving ROI from DevOps projects with UK clients in different business domains.



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# The top 5 tech skills of a great DevOps engineer.

## 1. They build infrastructure as code..

This is the backbone of DevOps, where the environments within operational infrastructure can be spun up automatically using a pre-defined code template. The great DevOps engineer would define every necessary service as code - which means they must be a skilled software engineer. These configurations are then repeatable at scale, ensuring that as systems grow, the infrastructure supporting them remains manageable.



## 2. They can automate configuration management.

It's crucial for faster software delivery to automate processes which would otherwise need to be manually handled by engineers. A DevOps engineer who can implement an all-encompassing, automated configuration management approach will define best practices for configuration management across the software delivery process.



## 3. They're a CI/CD expert.

DevOps engineers will create a continuous deployment mechanism which enables automated testing of code, allowing live deployments to take place many times a day.



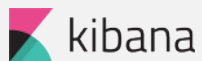
## 4. They can blend an operations mindset into software engineering.

Building applications in microservices and deploying them to the cloud is a fundamental part of a DevOps team's delivery process. A DevOps engineer who can advise software engineers on how to optimally code for a DevOps pipeline will guide projects to efficient delivery.



## 5. They weave automated performance monitoring into infrastructure.

It's crucial for teams to have early warning of any errors within infrastructure so that they can be tackled before problems occur. A DevOps engineer who can build monitoring dashboards, automate operational procedures for failure, and continually improve processes will massively reduce risks of error.



computing  
DevOps  
Excellence  
Awards  
2019

### Godel's winning talent

Godel DevOps Engineer **Siarhei Rudnitski** was highly commended at the 2019 Computing DevOps Excellence Awards.

Siarhei was a driving force in the delivery of one client's mission critical DevOps project. This project saw Siarhei and his team shoulder significant responsibilities from both technical and team leadership standpoints.

By applying his DevOps expertise across areas such as AWS, containerisation and CI/CD processes, he has enabled the project to be delivered ahead of time.

He is listed amongst winners from DevOps leaders such as Yodel, Docker and Aviva.



# Rentalcars.com: Godel delivers new product with a DevOps-first approach.


Rentalcars.com had extensive requirements for their new online Marketplace platform. A greenfield build, they chose Godel to deliver the project from scratch into AWS.

“Today we have customers searching for car rentals in all manner of places. We can’t always satisfy those requests because we have gaps in our supplier base. With Marketplace we wanted to fill those gaps and meet that customer demand.”

Godel and Rentalcars.com employed a modern technology stack to deliver a microservices architecture which would allow a flexible, durable and scalable solution.

With Godel’s DevOps engineers guiding the project, Marketplace was delivered at a fast pace and is a successful platform today.

“From the outset we were very clear that we wanted everything to be defined as code - all infrastructure now is repeatable and defined as code. This has allowed us to build a platform which will allow us to continue to innovate at pace. It’s also laid the foundations for a DevOps culture within the Marketplace product. We started off with a fairly traditional infrastructure set up, but as the project has progressed we’ve gained a nice balance between Dev and Ops.”



*“We looked for three things in a partner; firstly technical competence, secondly cultural compatibility and thirdly we wanted to feel confident that delivery would be assured against our requirements.”*

- Andy Thorburn, Head of National Supply  
Rentalcars.com

Watch the full case study

# Experian: Godel transforms 3 critical applications into microservices.

With help from Godel's agile delivery team, financial services firm Experian took steps to move its three main applications to the cloud: Experian Business Express, My Business Profile and Web Admin, fully re-architecting them by moving them onto the Microsoft Azure platform.

Godel was responsible for the creation of the new infrastructure, which required a variety of tasks to be completed:

- An Active Directory and the associated Virtual Machines belonging to the domain were created, which in turn increased the efficiency in the management of the machines.
- New environments were created for automation, quality assurance, user acceptance testing and production.
- An 'always-on' High Availability (HA) group was rolled out across all the migrated databases – having this functionality in the database cluster provides not only HA, but disaster recovery too.
- A Microsoft Service Fabric Cluster was created, enabling faster deployment, which is highly scalable and also provides load balancing for the cluster.
- A Web Farm has been created on a presentation level for load balancing and HA of the web applications.

*“One of the biggest challenges was moving everything from our infrastructure within Experian to Microsoft Azure cloud.*

*Godel helped us massively to understand what was possible.”*

**- Ade Potts, Managing Director  
Experian SME**

[Watch the full case study](#)


# comparethemarket.com: an agile partnership, at scale.

As a digitally native business, comparethemarket.com's macro objective is to help customers save time and money and find the right product. This means delivering the basic customer expectations, whilst also working to prioritise innovative product development initiatives to delight its customers.

The comparison platform needed to grow its software engineering capabilities whilst migrating its products to its modernised Comparison as a Service (CaaS) tech platform. It needed increased software engineering capacity to re-architect all its products in parallel, and so in 2017 chose to work in partnership with Godel.

One of the largest pieces of work delivered by the Godel team was the migration of comparethemarket.com's Travel product to CaaS. This project contributed to the basis for a delivery strategy with comparethemarket.com, to be used for future products. Working closely together Godel was trusted with full development management of the Travel product.

The team works in a test-driven development process as well as a CI/CD process, both of which allow them to deliver at a higher velocity due to the reduced margin of error. Now the migration is complete, Godel has responsibility for maintaining the product's microservices architecture.



*“Delivering projects to time is important to us and the Godel team are frequent bangers of our celebratory project gong!”*

- James Lomas, CTO  
comparethemarket.com

[Read the full case study](#)

# Looking to accelerate your DevOps journey?

Godel's DevOps division provides engineering expertise across AWS, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud Platform. It has worked with many UK clients to provide the skills they require for modernising and transforming mission-critical solutions within DevOps principles.

With consultancy, project management and an emphasis on long-term partnerships baked into the Godel model, we deliver DevOps projects as efficiently as possible.

Godel Technologies is a nearshore software development partner. Working exclusively with UK organisations, Godel provides flexible, agile pods of software developers within an agile managed service.

Technical expertise covers back-end software engineering, which is delivered by its .NET, Java and PHP divisions and supported by its quality assurance/test automation, project governance and business analysis experts.

Further, Godel has extensive software delivery expertise across areas including front-end development, Python, Go, cloud migration (supported by AWS and Azure certifications), artificial intelligence and machine learning, data science, and mobile development.

To learn more about how Godel can work with you, contact us to have a conversation.

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