Philip Nordquist

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Portfolio · LinkedIn · GitHub

SUMMARY

Engineer working mostly with infrastructure, platforms and networks, and at times applications and DevOps. I look for gaps in security, usability and cost, and close them. At STIM I designed and built the Kubernetes platform that hosts all production applications. Before that, as Staff Operations Engineer at ExpressVPN, I led weekly releases across 3,000+ VPN servers and built countermeasures to keep the service reachable in censored regions. I use AI agents and automation in my daily work.

EXPERIENCE

DevSecOps Engineer

Nov 2023 – Present

STIM, Stockholm, SE

- Built the Kubernetes platform on VMware that hosts STIM's production applications. Automated cluster provisioning with Terraform and Ansible, cutting new-cluster setup from days to about 15 minutes.
- Introduced GitOps with Argo CD across every cluster so shared platform services are deployed and configured the same way everywhere. Now designing how application releases are promoted between environments safely and with little manual work.
- Locking down the clusters with RBAC, admission policies and policy controls so containers get no more access than they need, applying zero-trust principles down to the individual workload to limit lateral movement.
- Built security monitoring and incident response workflows in Microsoft Sentinel across Entra ID, Intune and Microsoft 365, and handle forensic investigations on the security on-call rotation.
- Set up the platform so nodes and clusters can be rebuilt from code, with persistent application data backed up separately.
- Automated server patching with Azure Arc, saving around 100 hours a year of after-hours maintenance.
- Rolled out 1Password for application secrets management across the organisation, beyond its original use for IT credentials.

Staff Operations Engineer

Apr 2021 – Jul 2023

ExpressVPN, Hong Kong / Remote

- Defined the support model and cross-region failover design (under 15-minute recovery target) for the global launch of ExpressVPN Keys.
- Reverse-engineered how censoring networks fingerprinted and blocked VPN traffic, then shipped protocol-level countermeasures (proxy protocols, packet obfuscation) that kept the service reachable in heavily censored regions.
- Built the Prometheus and Grafana monitoring stack for 3,000+ servers and the global proxy fleet.
- Wrote playbooks and ran technical training so the service desk could resolve more VPN connectivity issues itself, reducing escalations to engineering.
- Led weekly releases across 3,000+ VPN servers with canary deploys, sustaining 99.9% uptime.
- Co-designed the Operations interview loop and conducted 50+ technical interviews on production engineering scenarios.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Senior Cloud & Infrastructure Engineer Apr 2019 – Apr 2021
ExpressVPN, Hong Kong

- Designed the corporate network and led its rollout across global offices, using Palo Alto firewalls and zero-trust controls to limit lateral movement.
- Automated identity management with Okta across 200+ SaaS apps, cutting user provisioning from 3 hours to 15 minutes.
- Rolled out secure remote-work infrastructure for 1,000+ staff during COVID with no downtime.

IT Infrastructure & Operations Manager Sep 2017 – Apr 2019
Universum Communications AB, Stockholm, SE

- Ran IT infrastructure and operations for the Stockholm headquarters (100–200 staff) and offices across Europe, Asia and North America.
- Led technical due diligence and migrated the company from G Suite to Office 365 during M&A.
- Put technical and data governance controls in place for GDPR readiness across all offices.

IT Engineer Sep 2015 – Sep 2017
ExternIT, Stockholm, SE

- Promoted internally from Binero (same group). Managed Windows and Linux servers and Cisco and HP networks for MSP clients, improving reliability through monitoring and automation.

Support Engineer Oct 2014 – Sep 2015
Binero AB, Stockholm, SE

- Provided L1/L2 support for Linux web hosting, DNS and email, including escalations.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cloud & Platform:	AWS, GCP, Azure, VMware vSphere; Kubernetes (K3s, EKS, GKE); Terraform, Ansible, Argo CD/GitOps, Helm.
Security:	Microsoft Sentinel, detection engineering, incident response; zero trust, OIDC/SAML/RBAC, CIS/NIST hardening, PKI.
Networking:	VLANs, routing, firewall policy, DNS, BGP; VPN/proxy architectures, traffic analysis.
Observability:	Datadog, OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, SLOs.
Code & Automation:	Python, Go, Bash, GitHub Actions; Azure Arc, cert-manager, 1Password.
AI & Agents:	Agent workflows, MCP tool integrations, prompt design, human-in-the-loop automation; OpenAI, Anthropic and Gemini APIs.

SIDE PROJECTS

- Built an MCP server connecting AI agents to Interactive Brokers for portfolio research, with audit logging and human approval controls.
- Built LLM assistants for Telegram and Slack, covering API integrations, backend and frontend; evaluated model cost, latency and reliability across OpenAI, Anthropic and Gemini.

EDUCATION

Högskolan i Skövde 2011 – 2014
Computer Game Development, coursework

Linköpings Universitet 2008 – 2011
Communication, Media & Society, coursework

LANGUAGES

Swedish (native), English (fluent)