

Paul Nion Vestergaard Larsen

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About Me

- I am an energetic, driven, and insatiably curious engineer with a self-starter attitude, and am always looking for the next problem to solve. I am also a team player, proactively engaging with my team to ensure a structured and flexible workflow.
- International upbringing - born in the UK to European parents, I am fluent in English, French, and Danish (hold all 3 passports). Also learnt basic Russian in secondary school.
- Personal projects available on GitHub - including open source code-generated libraries for interacting with the Telegram API, allowing for a perfect match of the documentation.
- **Social activities:** bouldering, freediving, sailing, surfing, and swimming. I also love to read, travel, and try new cuisines.

Experience

Qarik — Cloud Consulting firm

London, UK

SENIOR PLATFORM ENGINEER

February 2023 - present

- Mentoring and pairing with engineers to help them confidently move faster, with collaboration and best practices in mind.
- Leading and organising client teams across multiple timezones (US/UK/EU), upskilling engineers, modernising workflows, and introducing agile practices to legacy systems in enterprise environments.
- Building a HiTrust platform for a fortune 500 company, through a multi-environment, multi-tenant developer platform. Leveraged multi-cluster gitops and IaC pipelines for auditing, automation, and developer self-service. (argocd, helm, kubernetes, terraform, bash, python, GCP)
- Upgrading existing pipelines for various customers to state-of-the-art workflows. (GKE, anthos, cloud run, and more)
- Architecting and building a regionally sharded global SaaS platform with strict data geolocality requirements, using a multi-tenant isolation model. (golang, openapi, cloud run, kubernetes config connector)
- Obtaining GCP Professional Cloud Architect and Professional Cloud DevOps certs. (GCP)
- **Technologies:** Primarily golang, GKE, helm, argocd, bash, github actions, terraform, anthos, GCP, AWS.

Believable Bots — SaaS tools to fight spam in online communities - fully bootstrapped

London, UK

FOUNDER, DIRECTOR

June 2023-now

- Running a spam-fighting bot with over 77M monthly active users, across 2M monthly active chats, on a popular messaging app. Helps moderate communities by augmenting native moderation features. (golang, postgres, redis)
- Building a SaaS platform for whitelabelling the above solution to separate communities, with increased limits and additional customisation features. (golang, helm, kubernetes, prometheus, grafana, argocd)
- SaaS system resilient and self-sufficient by designed; automation, graceful recovery, and monitoring built in at the product's core.
- **Technologies:** Primarily golang, helm, argocd, github actions, terraform, postgres, redis, prometheus.

Unlikely AI — Symbolic approach to general AI, by the founder of Alexa

London, UK

SOFTWARE ENGINEER — MANY HATS

January 2022 - August 2022

- Improving developer workflows, working on platform resiliency, and migrating the internal infrastructure to infrastructure-as-code. (terraform, AWS, bash, docker)
- Working on the various internal microservices. (java, guice, spring boot)
- **Technologies:** Primarily java, AWS, bash, terraform, docker, guice, spring boot, react.

Impossible — Distributed gaming and simulations, backed by SoftBank's vision fund

London, UK

SOFTWARE ENGINEER — ENGINEERING VELOCITY/DEVELOPER EFFECTIVENESS

September 2019 - November 2021

- Analysing and improving developer workflows, strongly valuing human time over machine time to improve productivity.
- Building company-wide reproducible CI infrastructure to provide a scalable cloud CI platform to all engineers, leaning heavily on containers and caching to increase velocity. (golang, buildkite, docker)
- Introducing a new Prometheus-based alerting stack to improve metrics and observability over our kubernetes clusters.
- Introducing and promoting static code analysis tools to reduce PR cycle time and speed up code review processes. (golang)
- **Technologies:** Primarily golang, kubernetes, docker, bash, python, terraform, ansible, buildkite, GCP.

Internships: Impossible, Shazam

London, UK

SRE INTERNSHIPS

July-August 2017, April-September 2018

Education

Imperial College London

London, UK

2:1, MENG IN COMPUTING

September 2015 - July 2019

- **Noteworthy projects:**
 - **4th year thesis:** *Alexa, open their front door: Multi-modal security for Smart Home Voice Assistants.* A novel dissection of common flaws in smart assistants, exposing multiple attack vectors, with possible defences. Received a high first.
 - **3rd year project:** Whiteboard live coding. Live handwriting recognition tool to augment interview whiteboarding sessions. Final implementation involved custom neural networks and extensive post character recognition code fixing, with an option to project results back on the whiteboard. Awarded 90%+ grade.
- **Overall:** Strong experience with Golang, Python, Bash, Java. Capable in SQL, Haskell, C, C++. Some experience with various assembly flavours, Prolog, HTML, CSS, and Javascript.
- **Societies:** Heavily involved with the surf society, going on multiple trips yearly. Also an avid member of the Scandinavian society.