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Hey now!

My name is Dan Ward and I'm looking for DevOps work – either full-time or contracting, onsite (Boston area) or remote. But before I tell you where I think I can provide the most value to your organization, it might actually save you and me a lot of time by first telling you what *I'm not*.

- I'm not an IT admin, neither Windows nor Linux. My background is software engineering but I've done a lot of DevOps-related work.
- I'm not a manager. If you are looking for someone to come in, take over and build up your DevOps group and turn it into a well-oiled machine... well, that's not me.
- I'm not a cloud *guru*. I've built a lot in AWS and have a good deal of experience building secure networks (including with Microsoft Active Directory) and all via Terraform but I'm not a cloud architect that knows how to connect every service with every other service.
- I'm not even a DevOps guru! I can't wax poetic about the pros and cons of Jenkins pipelines vs. other pipelines. And there are a lot of utilities I haven't had the chance to work with *yet* - but I love the opportunity to learn anything new.

By now you are probably wondering where I can provide value. The answer: awesome automation, outside-of-the-box thinking, integrating systems that can't be integrated, creating clever forward-thinking utilities. And more. Let me give you a few examples.

1. Most recently I designed and built an AWS network for a *very* non-cloud-friendly legacy application that utilized hospital patient (HIPAA-protected) data. This was a lift-and-shift operation, moving an on-prem solution to the cloud where I had 0 developer cycles allocated to the process. It needed to support multiple, isolated clients but with some shared resources. The end result was an incredibly locked down network (100% under Terraform code control) with every form of monitoring and logging I could throw at it.
2. Way back in 2006 I started doing DevOps work - back before that term existed. My first major creation was a complete build and deployment system, written from scratch in PowerShell. It supported *continuous integration* and *continuous deployment* (back before *those* terms ever existed) for many different types of applications.
3. For fun (yes, this is my type of 'fun') in my spare time I created a set of open source utilities for Octopus Deploy that allows a user to easily export some or all of the configuration data. From there the utilities allow you to see all changes to the system over time, search across the entire configuration, perform *any* type of reporting on it and, most interestingly, perform unit testing on the configuration. Octopus Deploy is one of those tools that hides all its information behind a web interface and as a result you might not know how something will work on production until you actually deploy it. My utilities can help you can test your configuration **before** deploying!

By the way, these examples above illustrate writing code to solve a problem. Does that mean that's the *only* type of work I want to do? No, not at all! I want to work with all sorts of products and services and I love learning new tech – but if I encounter a dead-end or limitation, I can usually code my way around it. Having a background as a software engineer comes in handy.

Interested in learning more? Then please contact me: dtward@gmail.com