

Head of Development

Location – Remote - Required to work from Chennai, India office for 3 days every month (at own expense).

Experience – 15+ years

Qualifications – Any Graduate

[PopUp Mainframe](#) is a cutting-edge mainframe modernisation product. PopUp Mainframe enables customers to create mainframe environments on-demand and deploy them anywhere, including in the cloud. PopUp Mainframe is a game changer for organisations which rely on mainframe as it removes the bottlenecks surrounding mainframe environments and finally allows mainframe projects to be fully agile!

PopUp is a privately held IT software and services company based in the UK and India, delivering engagements globally based on our customer requirements. We have a full pipeline of new projects across the world, and we are actively growing our delivery capability.

The Role

We are looking for an experienced Head of Development to determine and lead the PopUp technical roadmap and PopUp Engineering team.

You strong need hands-on experience working with Unix-based applications and, ideally, experience of Z systems and the constraints that many organisations have around delivering change on the mainframe. You will create and drive a vision and strategy for evolution of the PopUp product, and work closely with our Engineering team to achieve this.

PopUp is at the cutting edge of mainframe innovation, and you will need strong problem-solving skills and creativity with the ability to quickly analyse problems, understand and act. We have a flat, highly collaborative structure and are looking for a self-starter who will relish the challenge of steering the PopUp technical roadmap and embrace the opportunity to help us continuously improve how we operate as an organisation.

You will work closely with the PopUp technical team day-to-day, providing technical direction on internal projects and ensuring that the desired outcomes are achieved. You will ensure that the quality of work in the team is very high, and improve the PopUp processes, standards and best practices.

You will ideally have a strong background in the CI/CD aspects as well (hands-on experience as well as best practice) including test automation, pipelines, source control, and cultural change. You will monitor closely technological innovation in this space and provide guidance on product development ensuring their knowledge and skills align with our internal projects and client project requirements. In addition, you will keep up-to-date with developments and new technologies in the wider Unix and mainframe DevOps community, share important updates with the team, and ensure the PopUp product and processes are best placed to take advantage of the latest open source and commercial tooling around mainframe modernisation.

You will be involved with our client projects, gain a strong understanding of their challenges (both macro and micro) and ensure our clients receive the best mainframe DevOps solutions possible with PopUp. You will ensure that customer experience of PopUp directly feeds into the PopUp evolution strategy to help better meet the customer needs.

You must have a well-rounded skill base, excellent communication skills (English fluency), and the ability to work

with stakeholders at all levels and understand complex customer requirements.

Required Skills

1. 10+ years' experience in application (Unix-based) teams as developer or system admin, with experience leading the teams.
2. Linux Architecture experience
3. Mainframe developer, sysprog or architect experience
4. Experience working in product teams and managing a software product.
5. Strong background and understanding of DevOps and Agile delivery. Scrum or Kanban experience, e.g. Azure DevOps. Ability to lead the team in Scrum/Kanban task management.
1. Experience using DevOps tooling and implementing automation at all stages of the SDLC e.g. GitHub Actions
2. Thorough understanding of SDLC processes followed in large corporates
3. Excellent communication and collaboration skills.
4. Proven ability to engage directly with clients and stakeholders at all levels (from C-level to engineer).
5. Experience in providing technical direction such as the choice of tools/technology and the process to exploit these technologies to maximise business value.
6. Managing internal and external documentation, standards and best practices.
7. Ability to lead onshore and offshore teams.

Good to have experience & skills

1. Understanding of the hurdles faced when implementing DevOps and modernisation projects in mainframe teams.
2. Any exposure to Mainframe virtualisation technologies i.e IBM zD&T and z/VM.
3. z/OS USS knowledge or Mainframe on the Integrated Facility for Linux (IFL) and LinuxONE Platform.
4. Knowledge of the following key mainframe skills: COBOL or PL/I, JCL, DB2, CICS, VSAM, SORT utilities, File-AID, SPUFI, ISPF and SCM tools e.g. Endeavor, Changeman or ISPW.
5. Delphix
6. Running/testing mainframe Batch
7. Experience working with financial clients

Personal Attributes

- Vision and strategic leadership within the PopUp technical teams.
- Ability to motivate and influence others.
- Self-driven, accountable, team player able to work collaboratively.
- Flexibility, strong commitment to high quality work and continuous improvement.
- Strong problem-solving skills with the ability to quickly analyse problems, understand and act.
- Good presentation skills, ability to explain complex concepts effectively.
- Ability to excel in a high pressure environment.

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