

Chris Fowles

Technology Executive – Architecture, Platform & AI Engineering

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Technology leader who has spent a career at the front of the adoption curve – an early adopter of DevOps, cloud, and now AI, with a track record of turning each into reliable, secure, cost-effective platforms that engineering teams love to build on. Currently founder and CTO of an AI product and advisory consultancy, designing agentic systems end-to-end and operating AI agents as first-class members of the delivery team. Previously Director of Technology at an ASX-listed fintech lender, where I led Data, SRE, Security, and ITSM through IPO and ISO 27001 in a heavily regulated environment, briefing the board on security and data risk. Equally comfortable shifting between business solution delivery and platform engineering, and known for coaching engineers and influencing senior stakeholders on modern practice.

SKILLS HIGHLIGHTS

- Agentic and AI systems: design of multi-agent distributed systems, AI infrastructure, governance, observability, and responsible-AI guardrails
- Cloud architecture, security, and cost management across AWS, Azure, and Google Cloud; infrastructure-as-code (Terraform, Crossplane)
- DevSecOps, CI/CD, and Site Reliability Engineering practices, tooling, and cultural adoption
- Platform engineering: Kubernetes/EKS, GitOps, API gateways, high-availability systems; edge/serverless platforms including Cloudflare Workers
- Data architecture: streaming, lakehouse/warehouse (Databricks), SQL and vector stores for retrieval-augmented AI workloads
- Languages and tooling: C#/.NET, Python, TypeScript, SQL
- Stakeholder management to board level; engineering coaching and mentoring; frequent public speaker across the cloud and DevOps community

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Founder & Chief Technology Officer – Metacosm

Jun 2025 – Present

Metacosm is an Australian consultancy and product studio helping tech scale-ups transform how they organise and build – a services practice (implementation sprints and fractional CTO advisory) alongside an AI product under development.

- Architecting and building an agentic organisational-transformation product: multi-agent workflows over an immutable, append-only fact model with distinct evidence classes, designed so agents inform decisions without being allowed to take the wheel
- Operate AI agents as delivery team members – implementation work is planned, briefed, and reviewed through Linear with an autonomous coding agent executing, giving first-hand experience of what AI-native engineering practice actually requires
- Designed and built an agentic interview application on Cloudflare utilising Durable Objects
- Fractional CTO and technology advisory for scale-ups and national organisations: technology strategy, architecture review, and engineering practice uplift

Director of Technology – Plenti (formerly RateSetter Australia)

Jul 2019 – Jun 2025

Plenti is one of Australia's leading consumer fintech lenders, listed on the ASX in September 2020. As Director of Technology I owned Data, SRE, Security, and ITSM – teams, budgets, and long-term strategy – working directly with the executive and briefing the board on security and data risk.

- Built the company's Data & AI capability from the ground up: established Big Data as a core practice, a modern data stack on Databricks, and a Data Engineering and Analytics organisation that democratised data across the business
- Delivered GitOps-driven, highly automated Kubernetes (EKS) platforms serving development, operations, and data engineering teams – stable internal platforms despite constantly moving underlying technology
- Uplifted security posture in a regulated environment: DLP, endpoint security and compliance (Azure Intune/Defender), CASB vendor selection, and contribution to ISO 27001 certification
- Coached engineering leads on team practices, software architecture, and site reliability, normalising hard-earned lessons across teams

DevOps Lead – Plenti

- Streamlined product delivery by automating security, deployments, monitoring, and code quality; partnered with teams to engineer reliability into their services

Head of Technology / Principal Consultant – Vibrato

Sep 2016 – Jul 2019

Vibrato was a leading Australian DevOps and automation consultancy, acquired by Servian in 2019. As Head of Technology I was responsible for keeping the firm at the forefront of emerging technology – through strategic consulting, workshops, and a heavy public-speaking presence.

- Architected and led cloud-native programs across AWS, Azure, and GCP for clients in payments, real estate SaaS, agritech (ML), media streaming, and ticketing – including Kubernetes platforms, large-scale Azure modernisation, and multi-cloud replicated SQL Server
- Tailored communication from engineer to executive across every engagement, influencing client stakeholders on solution principles and practice

Systems Architect (and prior roles) – StarRez

Dec 2004 – Sep 2016

StarRez is a Melbourne-headquartered ISV providing SaaS student-housing products to universities worldwide.

- Personally designed and implemented the AWS cloud platform that turned a packaged software product into SaaS – a key enabler of the company's rapid growth and US market expansion

SELECTED PUBLIC SPEAKING

CI/CD on Google Cloud (Google Cloud Summit) · MTTR as a Competitive Advantage (PagerDuty Connect) · Serverless for Ops Teams (Microsoft Ignite) · Future of Kubernetes (Kubernetes Meetup) · Crossplane for Kubernetes (AWS User Group) · Vault Dynamic Secrets & Terraform on Google Cloud (HashiCorp User Groups) · Panel chair, Configuration Management Debate (Infrastructure Coders)

CERTIFICATIONS & EDUCATION

CLOUD CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate ·
Google Certified Professional Cloud Architect ·
Architecting Microsoft Azure Solutions

EDUCATION

Graduate Certificate in Management (Organisational Change) ·
Advanced Diploma in Information Technology (Networking)

MICROSOFT

MCPS: Microsoft Certified Professional ·
MCTS: SQL Server, Implementation and Maintenance