Job Description



JOB TITLE: Application Architect

GRADE: 4

REPORTING TO: Product Delivery Manager

LOCATION: Swansea

# **ABOUT US:**

ERS is the UK's largest specialist motor insurer with an A+ rating. We recognise that for some, motor insurance is more than just a must-have; it's a way of taking care of what stands at the heart of their passion or livelihood. For those people, standard insurance isn't enough. That's why we work exclusively with motor insurance brokers to help get under the skin of the most difficult insurance risks, helping build products to meet their customer’s needs.

**THE ROLE:**

The role of the application architect is to develop and shape the overall application architecture strategy for ERS business applications. The Application Architect will work across all IT and with key business stakeholders to develop and design IT application solutions that help drive and deliver the IT and business strategy, with a primary focus on the underlying technical system design, rather than business process.

* Develops an application architecture strategy and roadmap that is fit for purpose by aligning to business and IT strategy.
* Documents and promotes the application architecture strategy and roadmap across IT delivery teams and wider IT including the as-is and to-be application architecture.
* Ensure application architecture strategy are developed to industry best practise.
* Support IT delivery Teams in identifying and developing technical solutions that address technical and business problems.
* Provides technical SME advice and steering to the wider business.
* Tracks, asses and escalates application technology opportunities that may benefit/drive ERS business strategy.
* Works in partnership with internal and external business stakeholders to ensure vendor applications integrate with ERS technology solutions and strategies seamlessly.

**KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:**

* Develop, consistently maintain and promote the application architecture strategy and roadmap, ensuring changes and clearly communicated to IT and business stakeholders
* Develop, consistently maintain and enforce application technology standards conforming to industry best practice that reflect and underpin the application architecture strategy.
* Document and develop in-depth knowledge of company’s existing application architecture and portfolio.
* Maintain in-depth knowledge of company’s strategic business plans to ensure the application architecture strategy is reflective of those plans
* Review proposed and existing IT application change for compliance with application technology standards and application architecture strategy.
* Work closely with the Head of IT and Enterprise Applications Manager the ongoing process of designing and developing the technical IT strategy.
* Work closely with the Product Delivery Manager and Product Development Team Leads in guiding and directing the teams to work within the principles of the application architecture strategy leading to shared understanding of the strategy and roadmap across teams.
* Support development teams in creating high and low-level application design where needed.
* Work with ERS Business stakeholders to advise upon and design application solutions that drive and support business initiatives.
* Meet and work with Internal and external ERS Stakeholders to assist IT Strategy planning, adoption and delivery.
* Meet with external software and system suppliers to understand application integrations opportunities and requirements.
* Keep up with the latest trends in application technology to advise and guide the application architecture and wider IT strategies.
* Embody and amplify the ERS values in all aspects of day to day activity ensuring that all interactions and engagements are carried out with the highest ethical and professional standards and that all work is accomplished with quality and in accordance with ERS values

*The above duties and responsibilities are not an exhaustive list and you may be required to undertake any other reasonable duties compatible with your experience and competencies. This description may be varied from time to time to reflect changing business requirements.*

**KEY DESIRABLE ATTRIBUTES:**

* Proven experience in application architecture design and implementation for medium and large enterprises, or;
* 6 years+ experience in technical IT development and IT management.
* Broad understanding of modern technology platforms and solutions including Java, .NET and Microservice Architecture.
* Previous exposure to a DevOps delivery culture including CICD and Kubernetes / OpenShift containerisation orchestration.
* Have a balanced mix of technical and business skills.
* Build and maintain good customer/supplier relationships.
* Understand, develop and work within a governance framework

This role requires the job holder to be able to demonstrate the following competencies:

* Effective Communication Skills - Excellent written and oral communication skills with the ability to liase with stakeholders at all levels.
* Building Relationships - Strong interpersonal and consultative skills
* Initiative & Change - Ability to conduct research into emerging trends, standards, and products as required
* Commercial Awareness & Problem Solving - Ability to present ideas in user-friendly language
* Driving & Self Organised - Ability to effectively prioritize and execute tasks in a high-pressure environment
* Teamwork - Experience working in a team-oriented, collaborative environment.
* Decision Making – Comfortable making key decisions with an attention to detail.
* Strategic Thinking – The ability to apply thinking in a strategic context.
* Analytical Thinking / Problem Solving - Exceptional analytical, conceptual, and problem-solving abilities

Name (PRINT): .…………………………………………………………………

Signature: …………………………………………………………………………

Date: …………………………………………………………………………………