

# Mina Galić

Inishmicatreer, Cross – Claremorris, F12 X4K3 – Co Galway, Ireland

📞 +353 83 078 3947 • 📞 +43 664 886 22 883 • ✉ hire@igalic.co

🌐 igalic.co • in igalic • 🌐 igalic

## Infrastructure & Open Source

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I speak German, English and Serbo-Croatian. On the software side, I am fluent in Ruby, Python, C, and (Ba)sh, and have some good proficiency in Go and Rust, but I'm unafraid of reading and fixing software written in any other language. I have an uncanny knack for figuring out how to build, but equally well, break software.

I have worked in Unix based IT infrastructure for most of my career, and with Open Source software, both hands-on, and as coach. Since ca 2012 I'm doing it only part-time. Despite that, I seem to have achieved quite a lot. Here's a selection of my

## Experience

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2024 **Work Experience Placement**, *Mayo County Council*, Castlebar.

In the context of a work experience placement, I worked for the Mayo County Council's IT department for six weeks.

During this time, I built a central logging infrastructure using the ELK stack that could be used by the non-Windows systems, such as firewalls, routers, VMWare systems, PBX, etc...

I also helped automate a few of their manual tasks on Windows using PowerShell.

2019-2020 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *Barmenia Krankenversicherung AG*, Wuppertal.  
Barmenia is a German Insurance Company.

2019 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *ITERGO Informationstechnologie GmbH*, Düsseldorf.  
ITERGO Informationstechnologie GmbH is the internal IT service provider of the ERGO insurance group

2017 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *Metro Systems*, Düsseldorf.  
Embedded in a team responsible for innovating a cloud infrastructure for Metro.

2016 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *ÖAMTC*, Vienna.  
The Österreichische Automobil-, Motorrad- und Touring Club is an Automobile association that provides (emergency) assistance and insurance services across Austria, and internationally, via their partner network.

2013 - 2015 **Freelance DevOps Engineer**, *RISE*, Vienna.  
RISE is a Viennease company delivering specialised software solutions often on purpose built hardware

In all of these companies, I was usually embedded in their Ops Team or their IT department.

In most of them I helped migrate their Puppet Infrastructure from Puppet 3 to something resembling a modern Puppet version, while also bringing their testing up to standard (or into existence), and re-architecting their configuration management, while maintaining its functionality affecting hundreds of machines across dozens of services.

Usually these hundreds of machines were part of a private cloud, often, we built that private cloud ourselves (sometimes, from shoestring and chewing gum)

While working for these Operations Teams, I often introduced centralized logging infrastructure in companies that were flying woefully blind in that regard

In companies with big development teams, I usually introduced package repositories for both the OS (Debian and Redhat) and each Programming Environment in use (Python pip, Haskell cabal, Ruby gems, etc...)

And perhaps most importantly, I introduced code-reviews into the Ops development process

Our daily business of running such enormous infrastructures included not just keeping the Puppet infrastructure up-to-date and running smoothly, but also building and debugging distributed systems.

As such, close collaboration with developers using these systems was essential

**2018 Freelance Junior Pentester, *Radically Open Security*, Dortmund (remote).**

ROS is a Dutch nonprofit corporation which provides *ethical* cyber security services and training.

I worked with ROS on two code auditing projects that year, and one penetration test of a big Dutch retailer's on-site and AWS infrastructure.

**2016 Freelance DevOps Coach, *S-IT*, Vienna.**

S-IT Solutions was a service company to Austria's Erstebank and Sparkassen bank.

Over a week long workshop, I taught their Operations team version control basics with Git, Puppet fundamentals, as well as (new) best practices.

**2012 Freelance Test Infrastructure Manager, *VIE Airport*, Schwechat.**

In 2012 the Vienna International Airport made their 4th attempt to migrate their ground control system from a legacy COBOL system to something more modern.

My main responsibility was to automate the testing infrastructure of the project. I did this so well, that before the end of the project, I had automated myself out of this job. What a success story! The migration of the legacy COBOL system was also successful.

**2007-2011 Application Engineer, *Bwin*, Vienna.**

Bwin was an Austrian Online Gambling company, and my first employment.

After two years as Junior, where I distinguished myself by, among other things, training

my peers, I was promoted to Engineer

This allowed me to participate in On-call duty for our production landscape that was running on Solaris & Linux

Our day-to-day duties were deploying and debugging dozens of applications running on *only* ~60 servers

Guiding developers in matters of messaging architectures and other aspects of the nature of our distributed system

I specifically was responsible for introducing package repositories for both the OS (Solaris, Redhat) and each Programming Environment in use (Java, pip, etc...)

as well as running the version control system and associated tools

## Talks

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2017 **Ops to Dev**, *DevOps Days London*, London.

[What to bring and what to leave behind](#) (video recording)

We have very different tools — and methods in Dev & Ops. Much of DevOps has been to transfer methods and tools from Dev to Ops. But coming from Ops, I'd like to think that there are things Devs can learn from their Ops colleagues.

2016 **Voxpupuli, Open Source Speedtrain, CfgMgmtCamp**, Ghent.

[Voxpupuli](#) is a [Community of Practice](#) providing continued support and maintenance of some of the most popular and vital Puppet modules.

Unhappy with the state of several community created modules, I co-founded [Voxpupuli](#) in 2014. I became one of our main community advocates, giving talks about the basics of what a Community of Practice is and why you should join us, or how to create your own.

I've given this Presentation about what Voxpupuli is and how it works at numerous conferences. Sadly it has never been recorded. There is however a [blog post](#)

## Interests

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After working for a gambling company I am somewhat soured on watching sport, but I still love *playing* it in particular basketball. I have also practiced several martial arts over the years: Jujitsu, Aikido, Iaido, and Muay Thai.

One of my biggest interests is linguistics. While I only speak three languages, I am trying my hardest to *understand* as many as possible.

My biggest passion is “infrastructure”. Not just IT infrastructure but all kinds of infrastructures that are keeping us alive and connected.