

Mark McKinlay BSc (Hons)

Group Chief Technology Officer | Enterprise Technology & Transformation Executive

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Executive Profile

A commercially sharp, forward-thinking Group Chief Technology Officer with over 20 years of experience defining technical strategy, de-risking complex infrastructure, and maturing technology operations within high-growth scale-ups and enterprise environments. A trusted board-level leader adept at transforming diverse, multi-division technical estates—spanning legacy on-premise infrastructure, modern multi-cloud transformations, secure data pipelines, and AI platforms. Expert at engineering high-performance operating models and delivery cadences that maximize platform resilience, predictability, and security compliance (including SOC 2 frameworks) without introducing restrictive bureaucracy. Proven partner to CEOs, CFOs, and institutional clients to align capital technology investments directly with measurable business growth, risk mitigation, and commercial ROI.

Core Group CTO Competencies

- **Group Technology Strategy:** Multi-Division Tech Governance, Operating Model Optimization, Board & Stakeholder Relations, CapEx/OpEx Budget Management & ROI.
- **Estate Maturation & Resilience:** Infrastructure De-risking, Cloud Transformation (AWS/Azure), Legacy & On-Premise Modernization, High-Uptime Architecture.
- **Secure-by-Design Governance:** Enterprise Risk Management, Security Vetting Compliance, SOC 2 Type 2 Frameworks, Compliant Engineering Standards.
- **Organizational Design & Scaling:** Global Headcount Planning, Cross-Functional Team Synergy, Mentorship of Directors/VPs, Continuous Delivery Cadence.
- **Data & Emerging Innovation:** Scalable Data Platform Foundations, High-Volume API Ecosystems, AI & Intelligent Automation Integration.

Executive & Professional Experience

Chief Technology Officer

Kmmrce, Dubai (Remote/Hybrid) | July 2021 – Present

- **Operating Model Maturation:** Formulated and executed the comprehensive technology strategy and corporate operating model from ground zero, transitioning the engineering division into a highly structured, scalable, and resilient group-level function.
- **Organizational Design & Team Scaling:** Built the multi-disciplinary technology organization completely from scratch, scaling a distributed global team from **0 to**

over 30+ senior staff across Backend, Frontend, and QA streams while defining unified career progression frameworks.

- **High-Uptime Platform Commercialization:** Architected, delivered, and stabilized an enterprise-grade product infrastructure within 12 months, enabling 4 major consumer brands to digitize legacy frameworks and scale safely to **500–1,000 highly transactional daily orders per platform**.
- **Cloud Transformation & De-risking:** Led the wholesale migration of disparate, pre-cloud core assets into modern, unified AWS and Azure architectures, significantly increasing platform resilience, minimizing system downtime, and reducing operational overhead.
- **Predictable Delivery & Governance:** Embedded rigorous code review practices, automated quality governance, and performance metrics (OKRs/KPIs) across all active sprint workstreams, driving absolute release predictability and customer confidence.

Lead Python Developer / Engineering Manager

Digital & Code, Manchester | August 2019 – July 2021

- **Cross-Functional Leadership:** Directed a high-performing squad of 10 multi-disciplined engineers, optimizing sprint velocity, running agile ceremonies, and removing daily delivery bottlenecks across complex web and data platforms.
- **Infrastructure Modernization:** Championed the deployment of automated CI/CD pipelines via Docker and optimized platform security posture through strategic, secure-by-design enterprise AWS cloud migrations.
- **Executive & Client Synergy:** Served as the primary technical point of contact for premier corporate clients and commercial stakeholders, translating technical risk, roadmaps, and architecture investments into clear business outcomes.

Senior Python Developer

Tom Ltd, Liverpool | August 2016 – August 2019

- **Legacy Refactoring & Stabilization:** Spearheaded the multi-year modernization of monolithic legacy systems into secure, modern microservices architectures, systematically removing technical debt and improving platform processing performance.
- **Data Integration Strategy:** Designed and deployed secure real-time web management consoles and advanced enterprise APIs, allowing corporate B2B clients to ingest and monitor critical transactional data with absolute security.

Python Web Developer

Realbuzz Group, Chester | May 2014 – August 2016

- **Customer-Critical Platform Architecture:** Designed, deployed, and maintained high-volume transactional web applications handling extreme concurrent traffic spikes for tier-one global financial and sporting operations (including Virgin Money and the London Marathon).

- **Secure Ecosystem Integrations:** Developed highly secure registration systems and complex payment infrastructure; successfully integrated diverse APIs across major financial gateways (WorldPay, Braintree), ensuring total data compliance and transactional integrity.

Managed Hosting Technician & Service Assurance Engineer

Zen Internet, Rochdale | 2008 – 2014

- **On-Premise & Diverse Estate Governance:** Gained extensive, foundational technical depth managing business-critical, high-uptime Windows and Linux server arrays, hardware routing, complex database troubleshooting, and data center operations. Provided the deep pre-cloud infrastructure credibility required to confidently challenge technical designs and manage legacy-to-cloud estate transitions.

Higher Education & Technical Credentials

- **BSc (Hons) Multimedia Systems** – Liverpool John Moores University (2000 – 2005)
- **Windows Server Certified** (2013)
- **i-Net+ Certified & Hub1000 Fens Operations & Maintenance** (2006)

Personal Interests & Executive Stamina

Passionate marathon runner and triathlete, actively training with a targeted timeline to complete a full Ironman triathlon. Finisher of the London Marathon (2015). This endurance training exemplifies the high personal discipline, strategic patience, and long-term mental stamina required to steer multi-year corporate technology transformations under high pressure.