

Amber Hart

CLOUD SECURITY ARCHITECT

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Professional Summary

Cloud Security Architect with 7+ years of experience designing and securing enterprise-grade cloud environments across industries including energy, finance, and education. Proven expertise in DevSecOps, AI-driven compliance automation, and quantum-resilient security strategies. Passionate about simplifying security operations and bridging gaps between technical teams and business stakeholders. Known for building innovative tools and leading projects from architecture through deployment with a strategic and collaborative mindset.

Experience

Southern Company | Cloud Security Architect

May 2024 – Present

- Drive the enterprise-wide CSPM transformation by deploying Wiz across multi-cloud environments (Azure, AWS, GCP), configuring integrations, and enforcing unified policy-as-code standards using Terraform and OPA.
- Manage quantum readiness efforts by maintaining a PQC roadmap, inventorying cryptographic assets, engaging vendors, and aligning with NIST standards to prepare for migration.
- Designed and implemented an AI-powered policy comparison tool using Azure OpenAI and LangChain to identify control gaps between Wiz and Microsoft Defender for Cloud.
- Lead strategic planning and deployment of a secure Terraform state file to support scalable IaC practices and establish standardized cloud infrastructure across the enterprise.
- Direct enterprise-wide cloud security benchmarking using the Microsoft Security Benchmark, identifying control gaps and coordinating remediation across technical teams.
- Advise development and operations teams on mitigating security weaknesses and identifying new solutions to enhance the organization's cloud security posture.

TCM Bank | Application Security Engineer (Contract)

Feb 2024 – May 2024

- Conducted API security testing using Burp Suite and Postman prior to production deployments, identifying and mitigating critical vulnerabilities.
- Acted as security liaison between development and audit teams; developed documentation and tracked risk remediation progress.

Southern New Hampshire University | Cloud Security Engineer (Contract)

Mar 2023 – Jan 2024

- Liaison between Office of Product Innovation and Information Security, enhancing cloud security in Azure and GCP; integrated security into Azure DevOps and GitHub Actions for CI/CD pipeline integrity.
- Collaborated with DevOps team using tools like CodeQL, Dependabot and Tenable WAS for proactive security vulnerability detection and remediation.
- Served as DevSecOps SME, coaching development teams on integrating secure coding practices and addressing CI/CD security gaps.

- Led Wiz CSPM POC deployment, customizing and integrating it effectively, and communicated strategic advantages to senior leadership for seamless adoption.
- Authored secure coding policies and disaster recovery plans, guiding development teams in best practices for cloud security response strategies.

Voice | DevSecOps Engineer

Jan 2022 – Mar 2023

- Leveraged SonarQube for CI/CD pipeline integration, automating code quality and security scanning, and leading collaboration for vulnerability management.
- Managed enterprise-wide vulnerability detection and mitigation with Tenable.io, integrating into CI/CD for automated security assessments.
- Implemented and managed Dependabot in GitHub Actions, automating dependency updates and integrating security into development workflows.
- Utilized Google Security Command Center for comprehensive threat detection, risk assessment, and security policy enforcement across GCP assets.
- Conducted in-depth security analysis of smart contracts using Trail of Bits tools, driving innovation in blockchain application security.
- Orchestrated Cloudflare services to enhance web security, managing DDoS mitigation, WAF configuration, and secure content delivery.

PKM/Crowe/Coalfire | Senior IT Auditor & Security Consultant

May 2018 – January 2022

- Delivered 50+ IT security assessments and audits across regulated industries; evaluated IAM controls, infrastructure & cloud security, vulnerability management and SDLC risks under PCI-DSS, HITRUST, SOC 2, SOX, and GLBA.

Projects

RiskShield - AI Business Solution

- Architected and developed LLM solution for reviewing security controls (NIST) using LangChain, Open AI Embeddings, GPT-4, FastAPI, Azure Web Apps, Docker, and ChromaDB.
- Streamline and automate compliance assessments by integrating LLM, document parsers and RAG to analyze security documents against compliance frameworks and draft structured compliance reports.

Cloud Security Chatbot - Context-Aware Memory Chatbot

- Built a cloud security chatbot using LangChain, Streamlit UI, VectorStoreRetrieverMemory, ConversationBufferWindowMemory and OpenAI GPT-4 to assist with posture questions and tooling guidance.
- Embedded a lightweight memory layer into an LLM-powered chatbot, enabling operators to retrieve environment facts and past resolutions instantly, saving time and reducing context-switching overhead.

Cloud Compliance Advisor Chatbot - Building Domain Specific AI

- Designed AI tool to automate compliance checks using Streamlit UI, FetcherAgent, GapAgent, Analyzer Agent, LangChain agents, ChromaVector Store, and OpenAI GPT-4.
- Compliance Advisor Chatbot is a specialized AI assistant built to help organizations compare their internal security policies against the NIST SP 800 53 standard

Synchronizing Cyber and Political Events Across Nations - Three Minute Thesis: Exploring Cyber Threat Patterns as Predictive Indicators of Geopolitical Crises

- Conducted a cross-correlation analysis using BigQuery, SQL, and Looker Studio to evaluate and visualize monthly cyber-attack volumes against global geopolitical event data.
- This cross-correlation analysis demonstrates that cyber-attack volumes not only mirror geopolitical crises but, in key cases such as Ukraine, can precede them—offering valuable early-warning signals.

Education

Georgia State University, Master of Business Administration Computer Information Systems AI Business Innovation Certificate	2026
Georgia State University, Master of Science Information Systems Audit and Controls	2018
Georgia State University, Bachelor of Science Public Policy	2016

Certification

DevSecOps Masterclass BlackHat	August 2023
Mastering MITRE ATT&CK AttackIQ	April 2023
Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge Cloud Security Alliance	August 2021
Certified Information Systems Auditor ISACA	May 2020

Skills

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cloud Infrastructure Security & Architecture • DevSecOps • AI Infrastructure and Architecture • Network Security • Identity and Access Management (IAM) • Security Compliance (e.g. GDPR, HIPAA) • Vulnerability Management • Encryption Technologies • Security Automation • Penetration Testing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) • Risk Management and Assessment • Problem Solving and Critical Thinking • Communication and Presentation Skills • Collaboration and Cross-Functional Coordination • Adaptability and Flexibility • Time Management and Prioritization • Leadership and Team Management • Decision Making and Strategic Planning |
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Tech Stack Experience

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azure • GCP • AWS • Wiz • Python • OpenAI • GitOps • Terraform • Rego/OPA • BurpeSuite • Postman • Cloudflare • Kubernetes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hashicorp Vault • Amazon Bedrock • Sonarqube • Tenable • Dependabot • Checkmarx • Datadog • Docker • Azure OpenAI • Langchain • CrewAI • Splunk |
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