What You Won't Find in This Book

This book is not meant to be an exhaustive reference manual for Terraform. I do not cover all of the cloud providers, or all of the resources supported by each cloud provider, or every available Terraform command. For these nitty-gritty details, I refer you instead to the Terraform documentation.

The documentation contains many useful answers, but if you're new to Terraform, infrastructure as code, or operations, you won't even know what questions to ask. Therefore, this book is focused on what the documentation does *not* cover: namely, how to go beyond introductory examples and use Terraform in a real-world setting. My goal is to get you up and running quickly by discussing why you might want to use Terraform in the first place, how to fit it into your workflow, and what practices and patterns tend to work best.

To demonstrate these patterns, I've included a number of code examples. I've tried to make it as easy as possible for you to try these examples at home by minimizing dependencies on any third parties. This is why almost all the examples use just a single cloud provider, AWS, so that you need to sign up only for a single third-party service (also, AWS offers a generous free tier, so running the example code shouldn't cost you much). This is why the book and the example code do not cover or require HashiCorp's paid services, Terraform Cloud or Terraform Enterprise. And this is why I've released all of the code examples as open source.

Open Source Code Examples

You can find all of the code samples in the book at the following URL:

> *https://github.com/brikis98/terraform-up-and-running-code*

You might want to check out this repo before you begin reading so you can follow along with all the examples on your own computer: