



Day 13 Internship Report

Learning and Implementing Terraform Modules on Contact Manager

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Day: 13

Repository Link:

<https://github.com/arsalan-signiance/internship-day10-11-12>

Objective of the Day

Today's objective was to understand and implement Terraform modules to refactor the existing infrastructure code of the Contact Manager project into a clean, reusable, and production style modular structure.

The goal was to improve:

- Code organization
- Reusability
- Maintainability
- Scalability
- Separation of concerns

Concepts Learned

1. What are Terraform Modules?

A Terraform module is a container for multiple resources that are used together. Modules allow:

- Grouping related resources
- Reusing infrastructure code
- Maintaining clean structure
- Creating environment-based deployments (dev, prod)

Every Terraform configuration has:

- Root Module: main working directory
- Child Modules: reusable infrastructure components

2. Why Modules Were Needed in This Project

Initially, all infrastructure resources were written in a single directory. As the project grew (VPC, ECS, AMP, SNS, ALB, SSM, etc.), the configuration became complex.

Using modules helped to:

- Separate networking from compute
- Isolate monitoring configuration
- Manage IAM roles independently
- Keep environment-specific values clean

This follows production DevOps best practices.

Modules Created and Their Responsibilities

- ◆ VPC Module
 - Responsible for: Creating custom VPC, Public & Private Subnets, Internet Gateway, NAT

Gateway, Route Tables, Security Groups.

- Purpose: Provides secure networking foundation for ECS and ALB.

- ◆ ECS Module

- Responsible for: ECS Cluster, Task Definition (API + ADOT sidecar containers), ECS Service, CloudWatch Log Groups.
- Includes: Fargate configuration, Multi-container task setup, IAM task roles, SSM Parameter integration.

- ◆ AMP Module

- Responsible for: Creating AMP workspace, Configuring alert rule groups, Alert Manager integration.
- Purpose: Enable metrics storage and alert evaluation.

- ◆ SNS Module

- Responsible for: SNS Topic, Email subscription, Topic policy for AMP access.
- Purpose: Send alert notifications via email.

- ◆ IAM Module

- Responsible for: ECS Task Execution Role, ECS Task Role, AMP permissions, SSM access

permissions.

- Purpose: Secure access between AWS services.

Root Module (Environment Layer)

The dev environment acts as the root module. It calls all child modules, passes required variables, defines environment specific values, and manages provider configuration.

Example usage in `main.tf`:

```
module "vpc" {  
  
    source = "../../modules/vpc"  
  
}
```

This separates reusable infrastructure from environment configuration.

Key Terraform Concepts Practiced:

- Variable declaration and passing between modules
- Output values for inter module communication
- Multi container ECS task definition
- Sensitive variables handling

- Terraform init, validate, plan, apply workflow
- Correct HCL block formatting
- Module source referencing
- Environment-based structure

Challenges Faced

Issues Encountered:

- HCL syntax errors (single-line block formatting issues)
- Incorrect use of semicolons and commas
- Variable referencing between modules
- Handling sensitive variables properly

Resolutions:

- Refactoring into multi-line block syntax
- Correct module input/output mapping
- Validating configuration before apply

Result:

- The project was successfully converted into a modular Terraform structure.
- Infrastructure became clean, organized, and reusable.
- The setup now follows real-world DevOps best practices.
- The project is ready for version control and scalable deployments.

Learning:

Today's learning improved understanding of:

- Infrastructure as Code design patterns
- Modular architecture in Terraform
- Production-level project structuring
- Clean DevOps workflows

This modular structure makes the project easier to extend, easier to maintain, and suitable for real production environments.

Screenshots:

The screenshot shows a VS Code workspace titled "infra". The left sidebar (EXPLORER) displays a file tree for an "INRA" project, including "environments\dev", ".terraform", ".terraform.lock.hcl", "main.tf", "outputs.tf", "variables.tf", and "modules" (which further contains "alb", "ecs", "cloudfront", and "iam" sub-modules). The main editor area shows the contents of "outputs.tf". The terminal at the bottom is running a PowerShell session titled "powershell - dev" and is executing the command "terraform apply". The output of the command shows various resources being created, such as "module.ecs.aws_ecs_cluster.this", "module.iam.aws_sns_topic.alerts", and "module.cloudfront.aws_cloudfront_origin_access_control.this". A message at the end of the terminal output says "Apply complete! Resources: 45 added, 0 changed, 0 destroyed."

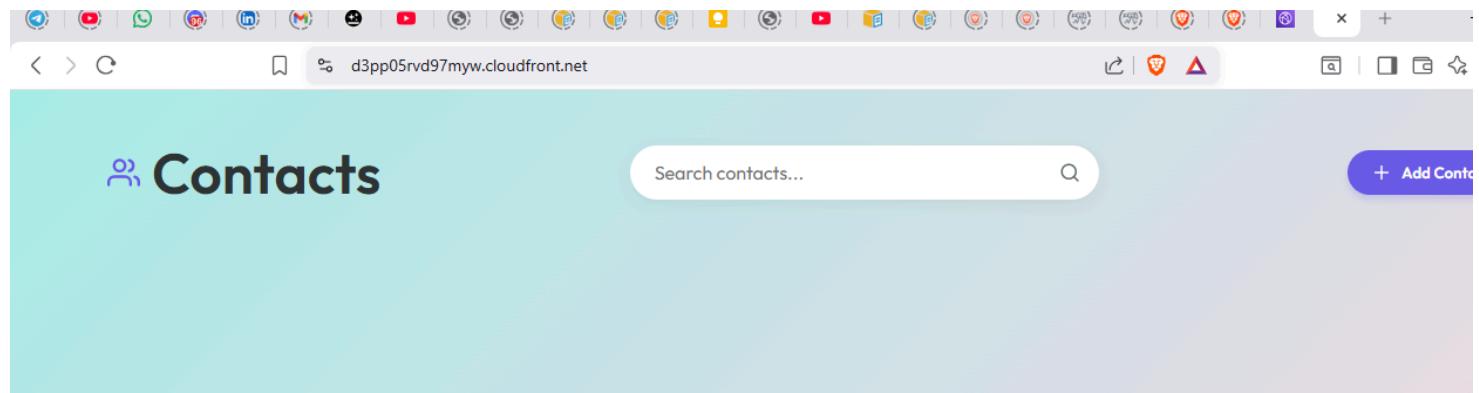
VS Code workspace showing a Terraform project structure with `outputs.tf` open and a terminal running `terraform apply` to provision AWS infrastructure.

This screenshot is identical to the one above, showing the same VS Code workspace and terminal output. The terminal output confirms the successful deployment of 45 resources, including the creation of an ALB DNS name, CloudFront distribution, and S3 bucket.

Terminal output confirming successful Terraform deployment with 45 resources added and displaying generated outputs like ALB DNS, CloudFront domain, and S3 bucket name.

A screenshot of a web browser window. The address bar shows the URL `d3pp05rvd97myw.cloudfront.net/api/health`. Below the address bar, there is a "Pretty-print" checkbox which is checked. Underneath the checkbox, the JSON response is displayed: `{"status": "ok"}`.

Browser window displaying a successful API health check at `/api/health` returning JSON response `{"status": "ok"}` via CloudFront.



Web application frontend loaded through CloudFront

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