

Collin Wilkins

303-330-9660 | wilkins507@gmail.com | <https://www.linkedin.com/in/collin-wilkins-1020215a/>

Innovative Software Engineer with over 5 years of experience in designing highly distributed, reliable cloud platforms across AWS, Azure, and GCP. I specialize in building messaging pipelines with Kafka and GCP Pub/Sub to support IoT telemetry, event-driven microservices, and real-time application messaging. I'm skilled in writing clean, production-grade code in Python, Java, Kotlin, and JavaScript, with a strong foundation in Linux, Zero Trust security, and fault-tolerant system design. I'm adept at improving service reliability, operational efficiency, and scalability for both internal and external customers in fast-paced, high-impact environments.

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, Java, Kotlin, JavaScript

Cloud Platforms: AWS, Azure, GCP

Distributed Systems & Messaging: Kafka, GCP Pub/Sub, Kubernetes, Serverless (AWS Lambda, Azure Functions), SQS/SNS, Terraform, Jenkins

Networking & Security: TLS, VPN, Firewalls, TCP/IP, DNS, IPv4/6, IAM, OAuth, MFA, ADFS, Zero Trust

Reliability & Observability: Grafana, Splunk, Prometheus, AWS CloudTrail, SOC 2, HIPAA, PCI DSS

Databases: MySQL, PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, Firestore

Professional Experience

Morningstar, Inc. — Detroit, MI *Lead Engineer* | Apr 2024 – Present

- Architected and deployed secure, cloud-native services for regulated financial clients, enabling the onboarding of over 23 enterprise recordkeepers with Zero Trust access models.
- Led the modernization of a compliance engine using AWS SQS, AWS Lambda, and distributed queues, which improved throughput and reduced latency by 35%.
- Designed monitoring and alerting solutions using Grafana and Splunk to meet 99.99% uptime targets for client-facing services.
- Partnered with product teams to translate business requirements into scalable technical designs, authoring technical diagrams and operational playbooks.

Ford Motor Company — Dearborn, MI *Full Stack Software Engineer – Connected Vehicle* | Feb 2021 – Apr 2024

- Built and maintained IoT microservices on Azure and GCP to support real-time telemetry for millions of vehicles and over-the-air updates.
- Implemented Kafka feed listeners ingesting over 600k vehicle events daily while ensuring proper handling and data privacy of customer location data.
- Designed and built theft anticipation and recovery features for the 2024 Ford F-150, leveraging cloud-integrated telemetry services and real-time messaging frameworks.
- Migrated identity systems to Microsoft ADFS & SSO, streamlining authentication while aligning with Zero Trust security principles.
- Led the re-design of an application for remote dealership inventory auditing via cloud communication. The new lightweight application handles vehicle-to-cloud events for over 450,000 vehicles and saves over \$5M annually.

Market Area Sales Manager (Pricing & Strategy) | Jul 2019 – Jan 2021

- Designed digital pricing tools that delivered \$2.2M in annual savings and collaborated with leadership to integrate analytics into field operations.
- Collaborated with executive leadership to develop technology roadmaps and pricing models for Ford's North American market

Business Development Manager | Mar 2017 – Jun 2019

- Served as technical sales advisor for digital onboarding and financial planning tools with 13 dealer accounts \$75M assets under management (AUM)
- Partnered with clients to deploy financial planning platforms, capturing \$10M through tailored technical sales engagements.

Education & Certifications

Education

- MBA, Lipscomb University – Nashville, TN (2016)
- BS, Business Administration (Finance & Accounting), University of Colorado Boulder (2013)

Certifications

- AWS Cloud Practitioner (2025)
- Microsoft Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900) (2024)
- Architecting with Google Kubernetes Engine (2024)
- Google Foundations of Cybersecurity (2024)