

Donovan Ellison

✉ dvaneson@gmail.com 🏠 dvaneson.com in [Donovan Ellison](#) 🔗 [dvaneson](#)

SKILLS

Programming: Go, Python, CSS, HTML, and JavaScript

Technologies: Ansible, AWS, GCP, Docker, Kubernetes, Terraform, Jenkins, and Python

Certifications: Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA), and GIAC Cloud Security Automation Certification (GCSA)

EXPERIENCE

Senior Cloud Security Engineer, *Apree Health*

Mar 2024 — Present

- Optimized Terraform pipelines, decreasing approval and request processing times by over 80%, enhancing efficiency and usability for both approvers and requesters.
- Partnered with engineering teams to deploy Renovate across 100+ repositories, automating dependency management. This proactive approach has mitigated Critical and High vulnerabilities in over 50 production services, significantly enhancing security posture.
- Facilitated the deployment of a self-service access portal, resulting in a 66% reduction in group request completion times and ensuring adherence to SOC II and HITRUST access controls.
- Streamlined and optimized the setup and coordination of AWS and GCP pentests, reducing the overall setup time by 50%.

Cloud Security Engineer, *Apree Health*

Jan 2022 — Mar 2024

- As the inaugural Cloud Security Engineer, led security initiatives throughout a year-and-a-half long data center migration to GCP.
- Enforced CIS standards with Policy-as-Code for hundreds of GCP projects, ensuring compliance with encryption key usage and preventing misconfigurations such as publicly accessible GCS buckets.
- Successfully implemented egress filtering for URLs in PHI environments, a pivotal step in achieving HITRUST certification.
- Orchestrated the deployment of DiscrimiNAT across 6 VPCs, effectively filtering traffic in 27 environments with over 900 unique FQDNs.
- Developed a Python Flask app that enables developers to bypass the 24-hour SLA for FQDN additions by quickly creating temporary egress firewall rules in lower environments. This innovation saved thousands of engineering hours, allowing uninterrupted development and testing.
- Introduced sprint planning, backlog grooming, and retrospective sessions, resulting in an outstanding 77% reduction in Lead Time for ticket completion, from an average of 61.3 days to just 13.8 days after 3 months.

Site Reliability Engineer, *Zapproved*

Mar 2021 — Jan 2022

- Enabled AWS Systems Manager for several dozen EC2 instances, providing secure remote command execution, automated patching, and granular access control to instances.
- Architected an AWS solution for managing SSH keys on TeamCity agents across multiple AWS accounts, enhancing security and access management.
- Analyzed and resolved an Elasticsearch cluster issue that caused day long logging outages, sometimes multiple times a week.

- Spearheaded the refactoring of the Kubernetes solution.
- Developed a roadmap for Kubernetes improvements by evaluating different tools, researching best practices, creating proof of concepts, and meeting with key stakeholders.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in **Computer Science, University Honors** Sep 2016 — Aug 2020

Portland State University