# James A. Morales

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## Professional Summary

Customer-focused Cloud Solutions Architect with 15+ years of experience designing scalable infrastructure, automating deployments, and leading security initiatives across higher education and enterprise environments. Proven track record delivering robust solutions in AWS and hybrid cloud, optimizing systems for resilience, performance, and compliance. Passionate about building resilient, future-ready architectures that empower teams and accelerate innovation.

## Professional Experience

Cloud Engineer
Bayview Asset Management, LLC
12/2021 - 12/2024

- **Architected and deployed** scalable AWS infrastructure (Lambda, EC2, EKS, IAM, S3, Route 53, CloudFront, API Gateway) to support enterprise-grade workloads with 99.9%+ availability and edge-optimized delivery.

- **Led** hybrid migration of critical applications to AWS via Migration Hub, Direct Connect, and VPN, reducing operational costs by 40% while ensuring secure, compliant multi-account Landing Zones aligned with SOC 2 and ISO 27001 governance standards.

- **Partnered** with InfoSec to enforce least-privilege IAM policies, implement VPC endpoint gateways, and standardize Secrets Manager usage, strengthening the security posture and ensuring compliance across multi-account AWS environments.

- **Implemented** production-grade EKS clusters with observability tooling (Prometheus, Grafana), enabling proactive incident response and improving system reliability.

- **Automated** provisioning and deployment for 25+ microservices using Terraform, Ansible, and ArgoCD, standardizing environments, eliminating drift, and accelerating release velocity by 40% on AWS.

- **Deployed** containerized microservices to EKS, refining Helm and YAML workflows—cutting provisioning time by 30% and speeding up developer onboarding and feature delivery.

**Notable Projects:**

- **Zero-Trust Hybrid Network Design:** Designed a zero-trust hybrid network integrating AWS and on-premise environments using Transit Gateway, PrivateLink, and IAM session policies—ensuring secure connectivity and least-privilege access.

- **Serverless Analytics Pipeline:** Built a real-time analytics pipeline using Kinesis, Lambda, and Redshift to process millions of daily events—cutting time-to-insight by 60% for engineering and product teams.

- **Kubernetes on EKS with Istio Service Mesh:** Deployed Kubernetes workloads on EKS with Istio for traffic management, security, and observability—enabling canary releases, zero-downtime deployments, and enhanced service visibility.

Senior Systems Engineer (Middleware & Infrastructure)
Bayview Asset Management, LLC
2017 - 2021

- **Designed** and implemented Jenkins pipelines and Ansible automation for 12+ microservices, standardizing deployments across non-prod and production environments, enhancing build consistency, and accelerating delivery time by 40%.
- **Implemented** AWS infrastructure (IAM, S3, EC2, RDS, Route 53, VPC) for 10+ compliance-driven workloads, enforcing governance and network security controls to achieve 100% audit compliance.
- **Contributed** to hybrid cloud transformation by implementing AWS Landing Zone, VPC architecture, and IAM policies, securely transitioning 12+ apps to the cloud in under 6 months.
- **Executed** migration of Active Directory and Microsoft Exchange to Azure, configuring Azure AD Connect, hybrid email routing, and virtual networks to support 1,200+ users with zero downtime.
- **Deployed** and optimized F5 BIG-IP load balancers to ensure high availability for 5+ critical applications, reducing latency by 25% across internal and public networks.
- **Engineered** infrastructure monitoring and alerting systems using Nagios and Splunk, improving operational visibility and reducing mean time to resolution (MTTR) by 40%.
- **Maintained** 24/7 operational readiness as part of an on-call rotation, consistently acknowledging incidents in under 10 minutes and resolving critical issues with minimal disruption.

Systems Engineer
Miami Dade College
2013 – 2017

- **Led** college-wide vulnerability management initiative, scanning and prioritizing risks on 1,000+ campus devices using Nexpose. Coordinated IT remediation and system hardening, reducing threats by 60% and securing student and faculty data.
- **Deployed** Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) at scale, enabling real-time threat detection, alerting, and incident response across cloud and on-prem environments—slashing response times and unifying SOC operations.
- **Drove** compliance for a college-wide big data initiative, implementing technical controls and documentation that earned NIST, ISO, and PCI certifications within six months—positioning the college for secure data-driven growth.
- **Built** automated remediation pipelines to patch vulnerabilities from OS and third-party updates—boosting endpoint compliance rates by 40% and virtually eliminating manual patching overhead.
- **Optimized** firewall infrastructure by engineering segmented security zones—boosting traffic isolation, enhancing network security, and improving throughput by 30% across academic and administrative systems.
- **Engineered** proactive server monitoring and automation across 400+ mixed Windows/Linux systems—maintaining 99.9%+ uptime via scripted patching, health checks, and capacity alerts.
- **Integrated** 1,000+ endpoints and applications into Splunk SIEM, optimizing log parsing and dashboards to accelerate forensic investigations by 40%.
- **Engaged** with diverse faculty and student groups to gather requirements and deliver tailored IT solutions, significantly improving user adoption of campus systems through effective communication and hands-on training.

Systems Administrator
Miami Dade College
2008 – 2012

- **Orchestrated** migration of physical servers to virtual environments using live and offline cloning techniques, reducing hardware footprint by 20% and improving operational efficiency.

- **Integrated** and deployed Active Directory domain controllers and LDAP services, ensuring secure authentication, directory synchronization, and reliable domain operations across Windows environments.

- **Automated** routine sysadmin tasks—including patching, user provisioning, and log rotation—across Windows and Linux systems using PowerShell and Bash, enhancing team productivity and reducing configuration drift.

- **Designed** and implemented disaster recovery strategies using Veeam, automating backups for critical infrastructure to minimize RTO and RPO.

- **Integrated** 1,000+ endpoints and applications into Splunk SIEM, optimizing log parsing and dashboards to accelerate forensic investigations by 40%.

## Education

Bachelor of Business Administration - Dean's List                    Florida International University, 2012
Associate in Arts: Business Administration                           Miami Dade College, 2008
Introduction to Computer Science and Programming Using Python        Harvard EDx

## Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate (2020 – 2023)
AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional  (In Progress; Target: Aug 2025)

## Professional Affiliations

Member, AWS User Group Miami
Contributor, GitHub open-source DevOps projects

## Skills

AWS (EC2, Lambda, EKS, RDS, S3, IAM, VPC, API Gateway, Route 53, CloudFront, KMS, Secrets Manager, SSO, SCPs, CloudWatch, Security Hub, Config, Organizations, Control Tower), Azure (basic), GCP (basic), Terraform, CloudFormation, Ansible, CI/CD, Git, GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Jira, Bitbucket, Confluence, ArgoCD, GitOps, Docker, Kubernetes (EKS), Helm, Python, Bash, Go (basic), Serverless Architecture, Microservices Design, Service Mesh, API Management, Cloud Migration, High Availability, Disaster Recovery, Transit Gateway, Direct Connect, PrivateLink, Cost Optimization, DevSecOps, Secure Coding Practices, SSL/TLS, Zero Trust Architecture, Compliance Standards (ISO 27001, NIST, SOX, PCI, FedRAMP), Data Lake (S3, Glue, Athena), Streaming Data (Kinesis, Kafka), Linux (RHEL, Ubuntu), Windows Server, DNS, TCP/IP, Load Balancing, API Design, Prometheus, Grafana, Datadog, Well-Architected Framework, Diagramming (Lucidchart, Draw.io, CloudCraft), and On-Call Rotation