Jim Zucker | AWS Solutions Architect | Product Owner | Engineering Manager
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Summary

AWS Certified Solutions Architect and Engineering Manager specializing in fintech, cloud computing, technical sales, and leadership of distributed teams. Proficient in DevOps, strategic planning, and large-scale project execution.

Professional Experience

Ness Digital Engineering, Sarasota, Florida   2020-Present
AWS Solutions Architect / Engineering Manager Financial Services

- Driving the development of leading-edge technology patterns and adapting them to Risk and Trading use cases to move companies from EOD Batch to streaming/event-based processing.
- Led the development of technology patterns for trading and risk use cases, transitioning companies from EOD batch processing to streaming/event-based processing.
- Developed a data modernization approach using Kafka, Avro Schemas, and Apache Flink for improved data governance.
- Created and delivered a structured training and certification program, 'Flink University,' to upskill developers to use Flink and Kafka technologies.
- Led the project to achieve AWS Premier Tier Partner status and AWS competencies for Financial Services, DevOps and Migration, enhancing the company's credibility and client trust.
- Worked closely with clients to understand their business needs and provide tailored solutions that optimized their operations and reduced costs.
- Coordinated with cross-functional teams to integrate new technologies into existing systems, ensuring minimal disruption and maximum efficiency.
- Conducted technical assessments and created roadmaps for improving system architecture.
- Developed and maintained strong relationships with key stakeholders, ensuring successful project delivery and client satisfaction.
- Designed architecture and led projects for multiple clients to leverage Flink & Kafka to move to streaming processing from EOD batches that could not scale to meet growing volumes.
- Delivered next-generation Compliance System for a leading asset manager, moving them from micro-batch processing to streaming event-based processing leveraging Confluent Kafka and AWS Managed Service for Apache Flink.
- Migrated bond calculations from a legacy Java on-premises monolithic architecture to AWS EKS, allowing a global financial services company to leverage cloud compute capacity.
- Delivered a modernized project to a create a fully automated loan origination system for leading auto loan lender.

EZOPS Inc, San Francisco, California   2020-Present
AWS Solutions Architect / Strategic Advisor

- Providing strategic advice on cloud-native platform development for data quality, reconciliation, and automation.

EZOPS Inc, San Francisco, California   2017-2020
Chief Technology Officer / Engineering Manager

- Established all processes and infrastructure for a new startup from the ground up.

- Built a modern DevOps-driven global product company across 6 locations with 55 engineers, 23 QA, and 11 PM/BA. Traveled frequently to Noida, India Dev center to train staff.
- Implemented Docker and containerized MVP for rapid deployment and scalability.
- Designed and implemented a cloud first supervised learning application leveraging AWS Batch, Lambda, S3, CloudWatch, CloudTrail, Python, TensorFlow.
- Set up best practice patterns in AWS and migrated all R&D to the cloud, eliminating on-premises hardware dependency and reducing operating costs.
- Trained the team to adopt DevOps practices, including personally migrating code repositories to GIT and building out CI/CD.
- Developed client support processes and infrastructure, enhancing customer satisfaction and support efficiency.
- Adopted industry best practices for tools and implemented them including Confluence, JIRA, BitBucket, CI/CD, CodeBuild, Zendesk, Slack.

Strategic DevOps LLC, San Francisco, California   2015-2017
AWS Solutions Architect

- Focused on introducing and implementing containerization technologies such as Docker in enterprise environments. Worked extensively with AWS services, including ECS, EKS, EC2, RDS, and Lambda, to optimize cloud infrastructure.

Calypso Technology, San Francisco, California   2010-2015
Vice President of Engineering

- 95% of routine changes automated and 100% of releases achieved through change from process based on 1-2 person heroics to global team working as service provider.
- Saved 83% in product release delivery times to all clients in response to fast-changing economic conditions that were driving down interest rates.
- 47%+ improvement in project on-time delivery achieved by optimizing interaction between product management, support, and engineering resources.
- 56% defect correction cycle time improvement with on-time delivery of enhancements to >92% by developing centralized exception monitoring for engineering to meet critical SLA requirements.
- Cut IP negotiations from years to under three months by revolutionizing how company conducted negotiations with third party vendors to protect its IP interests.
- Instituted industry best practices for open source management, validated by third party audit.
- Saved $487,000 per year by negotiating renewed capacity for cloud resources, while increasing resources by 250% and improving performance by 50%.
- Delivery Manager and Solutions Architect protected annual $6 million client relationship, managing requirements discussion between management team and largest client to drive agreement on key implementation.
- $5 million saved per year by analyzing potential costs of ownership for OEM application servers.
- Delivered $187,000+ per year in cost savings by negotiating favorable terms and conditions for contracts to purchase software development tools.

Salomon Brothers/Citigroup, New York, New York   1992-2010
Director of Engineering, Credit Technology

- Built and managed a multi-national team of 72 people to meet growing business demands, ensuring high performance and effective collaboration across regions.
- Developed automated processes for global counter-party risk reporting during the credit crisis, enhancing risk management capabilities and compliance.

- Conducted balanced build vs. buy analysis, saving the business $30 million over five years by making strategic technology investments.
- Gained Federal Reserve approval for Value at Risk (VAR), freeing up $15 billion in structured credit capital, significantly enhancing the bank's capital efficiency.
- Implemented new credit products for Asset-Backed Securities, creating multi-million dollar market opportunities and driving business growth.
- Coordinated the rollout of a derivatives platform across six countries, managing a team of over 150 people and ensuring successful implementation and adoption.
- Led the development of a swap accounting system still in production today, demonstrating the long-term impact and reliability of the solution.
- Implemented a global system for tracking and managing credit exposure, improving risk assessment and decision-making processes.
- Worked closely with senior executives to develop and execute technology strategies aligned with business goals, contributing to the overall success of the organization.
- Established a culture of continuous improvement, fostering innovation and encouraging team members to develop new skills and approaches.
- Managed daily operations, overseeing credit risk computations and front-office development, supporting 21 trading desks across capital markets.
- Promoted to oversee operations supporting the design and build-out of a global data warehouse for derivative products, integrating the global credit platform (Calypso) within the firm's global derivatives back office.
- Built an industry best-of-breed data warehouse to manage derivatives between 12 systems with over 1 million trades processed across six countries.

Army National Guard, New York, New York   1983-2005
Operations Officer (Major), Field Artillery & Military Police

- Directed emergency response during 9/11, mobilizing 2,000 soldiers and coordinating with city officials and agencies.

Education

SUNY New Paltz
B.A, Major in Computer Science, Minor in History and Communications

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Skills

Large Scale Project Execution, Product Management, Project Management, Cross Team Management, Business Analysist, Agile, Scrum Master, Vendor Management, Capital Markets, FI Derivatives, Credit Derivatives, Fixed Income, Settlements/Payments, Risk Management, Transaction Management, Trading Systems, Loan Origination Systems, Back Office, Micro-Service Architecture, Enterprise Architecture, Distributed Systems, Serverless/Lambda, AWS, Azure, Snowflake, Oracle, Sybase, Postgres, Apache Flink, Apache Kafka, Streaming Architecture, FinOps/Cost Optimization, Java, Spring Boot, Javascript, UX/UI design, Kubernetes, Docker, SQL, Linux, Shell Scripting, Git, CI/CD. Jenkins, Maven, XML, JSON, AVRO, Confluent, JIRA, Calypso

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Certifications

AWS Certified Solution Architect Professional
Snowflake Technical Sales Professional
Confluent Fundamentals Accreditation