Raul Pineda

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**Profile Summary**

**Entrepreneur| Strategic Technology Leader | Open Source Advocate**

I am a passionate tech enthusiast, IT leader, and solutions architect with over 15 years of experience in enterprise technology management, cloud computing, and team leadership. I am actively seeking to relocate to New Zealand to contribute my expertise to the country's burgeoning tech industry, particularly in cloud computing, AI/ML, and sustainable technology solutions.

My family and I are fully committed to moving to New Zealand. We have already initiated the process with an immigration specialist, cleared medical exams, and secured a place in Nelson. My wife's parents recently migrated to New Zealand, and my sister-in-law has resided there for over 25 years. Our goal is to not just work in New Zealand but fully integrate into the community and contribute to local initiatives.

I am in the process of obtaining a skilled migrant visa, and my eligibility has been confirmed with a job offer from an accredited employer. I am looking for a long-term situation where I can be committed to helping and developing an organization. I am dedicated to advancing organizational goals while nurturing the growth and success of those around me, contributing to the broader development of New Zealand's tech talent pool.

In my professional capacity, I am eager to bring my expertise in IT leadership, cloud computing, and innovative technologies to a forward-thinking organization in New Zealand. My leadership philosophy centers on hands-on problem-solving and fostering team development. I am experienced in managing diverse, global teams and adapting to different technologies. I am keen to contribute to New Zealand's communities and engage with projects aligned with the country's focus on sustainable technology and ethical AI development.

**Expertise and Capabilities**

**Leadership | Non-Technical Skills**

* **Leadership:** empathy-based leader, motivation-focused community builder, inspiring mentor and skills developer, empowering director of leaders and teams
* **Organizational:** coordinator of events, partnership development, team, and volunteer organizer
* **Innovation:** entrepreneur, innovator, analytical and artistic vision, adaptable problem solver
* **Learning:** self-motivated learner, technology tinkerer, critical thinker
* **Collaboration:** strong oral and written communication skills, active listening, open-mindedness, and conflict-resolving

**Technical Skills**

* **Cloud Computing:** Amazon Web Services (AWS- EC2, ECS, EKS, Route 53, S3, ASG, ALB), Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform (GCP)
* **Methodologies:** DevSecOps, DevOps, CI/CD, Agile, Scrum
* **Virtualization:** VMware ESXi, Microsoft Hyper-V, VDI - Citrix, Horizons, Microsoft RDS, Docker, Kubernetes
* **Operating Systems:** Windows Server (NT-2023), Linux
* **Database:** Microsoft SQL Server, MySQL, MariaDB, Cassandra, PostgreSQL, Neo4j, Graph
* **Scripting/Programming:** IaC, Python, Visual Basic, .NET, C++, Perl, Java, Javascript, Bash, Batch, PowerShell
* **AI:** LLMs OpenAI API, Llama3, Groq, Claude, OpenLLM, LM Studio, Ollama, Phi-3, AI Agent Programming, CrewAI, RAG, embedding

**Professional Experience**

**Leadingbit Solutions, Inc. - Austin, Texas (03/2021 - Present)**

Director of IT Infrastructure and Operations / Solutions Architect / CTO

* Architected and implemented containerized Open Source productivity platform architecture across AWS and GCP that replaces Office 365, reducing operational costs by 40%
* Spearheaded AI R&D with Open Source Large Language Models (LLMs) agent development, enhancing platform functionality with Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)
* Fostered a culture of innovation within engineering teams, driving a 40% increase in deployment efficiency
* Established security practices and compliance frameworks, ensuring 99.9% reliability of cloud infrastructure
* Led IT governance and cybersecurity efforts, safeguarding organizational assets
* Crafted automated deployment and system updating architectures using Bash, AWS CLI, Ansible, and CloudFormation, optimizing AWS resource utilization and resilience
* Developed the alignment of technology strategies with business goals, championing Open Source innovations and enhancing product impact.
* Managed diverse global teams, promoting collaboration and skill development
* Outlined and implemented the company’s technological roadmap, ensuring strategic alignment of technical resources with business needs
* Generate executive status updates and insights reports on technology projects and initiatives, collaborating with the CEO for strategic decision-making
* Engaged in advocacy and public speaking, emphasizing the role of technology in advancing Open Source Platforms and community collaboration. Speaker at the OpenUK: State of Open on Platform Engineering

**BAE Systems, Inc. - Austin, Texas (07/2008 - 03/2021)**

Enterprise Cloud Services Operations IT Manager (03/2012-03/2021)

* Managed global cloud services and virtualization IT operations across three data centers and 50+ remote sites, implementing solutions scalable for distributed workforce model
* Developed and mentored a team of 15 direct reports and 26 indirect reports, fostering a culture of continuous learning and innovation
* Architected data access governance solution, securing and auditing unstructured data across all lines of business
* Led the upgrade of 1500 Windows 2003 servers, resulting in successful security and compliance audits
* Directed Data Center migration from Herndon, VA, to Austin, TX, saving $4.5M in IT operating costs while maintaining 99.99% uptime
* Initiated "Great Place to Work" and "Diversity and Inclusion" events, boosting morale and participation by 70%
* Achieved $25K annual savings through enterprise Citrix support partnership, upgrading 800+ Virtual Desktops and XenApp Citrix licenses
* Directed the upgrade of 1500 Windows 2003 servers, resulting in successful security and compliance audits
* Designed a maintenance process for system upgrades and patching, saving more than $600K annually

Senior Principal Systems Engineer (07/2008 – 03/2012)

* Led IT teams of 5-8 engineers that managed Cloud Services projects, resolving critical issues and outages across the enterprise
* Automated processes in Windows and VMware environments using multiple scripting languages
* Administered Active Directory, enhancing security and functionality with login scripts, OUs, GPOs, and DFS
* Managed secure environments for Top Secret classified data, including Windows and Unix Servers, storage, networks, and desktops
* Received Safeguard Recognition Award for combating Advanced Persistent Threats during a major cybersecurity compromise
* Awarded for Virtualization Environment Upgrade Project improving unmanaged virtual environments at remote sites

**Computer Sciences Corporation - Austin, Texas (03/1998 - 07/2008)**

Senior Principal Computer Scientist & Solutions Architect

* Led IT teams of 3-5 engineers, developing solutions for clients in various sectors
* Facilitated IT outsourcing onboarding, translating client needs into software and hardware solutions
* Implemented MS Windows Server solutions, meeting SLA terms within tight deadlines
* Directed IT Red Teams to address escalated issues, enhancing customer satisfaction

**Certifications and Education**

* University of Texas at Austin - Computer Science, Bachelor of Science degree plan
* ITIL v3 Foundations
* Agile Project Management Fundamentals
* AWS Certified Developer - Associate

**Professional Development**

* Regular attendance at industry conferences, including AWS re: Invent and DevOps Enterprise Summit
* Continuous learning in emerging technologies such as AI/ML, blockchain, and MLOps
* Active participation in online tech communities and forums

**Significant Projects**

Open Source LLM Integration (2024)

* Led the research, development, and integration of Open Source Large Language Models into existing Open Source Productivity platform architecture
* Resulted in enhanced AI capabilities and a 25% improvement in user engagement metrics

Enterprise DevSecOps Solution (2020-2021)

* Architected and implemented a comprehensive DevSecOps solution for BAE Systems
* Improved deployment speed by 50% while enhancing security protocols

Data Center Migration (2018-2019)

* Directed the relocation of a major data center from Herndon to Austin
* Achieved $4.5M in annual IT operating cost savings while maintaining 99.99% uptime during the transition

**Awards and Recognition**

* Impact Award for regional data center infrastructure upgrades (BAE Systems, 2020)
* Bronze Chairman Innovation Award for AV Internal Live Broadcasting Solution (BAE Systems, 2019)
* Difference Maker and Pathfinder Award for Shared Strategic Assessment (BAE Systems, 2018)
* Safeguard Recognition Award for combating Advanced Persistent Threats (BAE Systems, 2015)
* Data Center Consolidation Achievement Award (Computer Sciences Corporation, 2007)

**Community Involvement**

* IEEE SA Open Security lead and Technical Advisory Group member (2020-2023)
* Member of Defense Industrial Base (DIB) Sector Coordinating Council Cyber Task Force (2019-2021)
* BAE Systems representative to the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) (2017)
* School of Business & Technology at Huston-Tillotson University Board Member (2016)

**References**

"Raul is an exceptional leader who combines deep technical expertise with outstanding people skills. His ability to drive innovation while fostering a collaborative team environment is truly remarkable. His mentorship and guidance are directly responsible for my career development from my initial position as a 24-hour shift support admin to where I am today."

Chris Coleman, Director of Cloud Services at BAE Systems

Professional references are available upon request.