

Taylor Opal

Senior Infrastructure Engineer | Cloud Architecture | Distributed Systems

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Summary

Cloud Infrastructure Engineer with 14 years building and operating software platforms to deliver artifacts and high performance SaaS. Expert in AWS, moderate in GCP, and familiar with Azure. Deep experience in multi-cloud and hybrid architectures. Operated distributed database clusters, in customer environments, at scale and with sub-ms latency over petabyte+ of data. Focused on release engineering, CI/CD and infrastructure-as-code. Proven track record taking ownership of loosely-defined projects and driving them from ambiguity through completion. Cross-functional collaborator.

Key Skills

- **Cloud Platforms:** AWS (best), GCP (moderate), Azure (topical, ready to grow)
 - **Container Orchestration:** Docker Swarm, Kubernetes operations, container security
 - **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Ansible, Packer, some topical CF and boto
 - **Database Operations:** Distributed database clusters, orchestration and automation, high-availability, chaos testing, ETL
 - **CI/CD & Automation:** GitHub Actions, Jenkins, deployment pipeline design, composition, automated testing and scanning
 - **Python Development:** 14 years building production automation and CLI tools
 - **Security & Compliance:** SOC2, ISO27001 audit support, vulnerability management, DevSecOps
 - **Observability:** Prometheus, Grafana, Victoria, OpenSearch, Fluentd, alerting
 - **On-Call & Incident Response:** SLA management, on-call rotation, troubleshooting distributed systems, blameless postmortems, RCAs
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Professional Experience

Research Data Scientist (Infrastructure Engineer)

Oregon Hazards Lab (OHAZ) | Eugene, OR | Nov 2024 – Sept 2025

- **Infrastructure & Automation:** Managed infrastructure using clickops, Ansible and GitHub Actions. Built observability stack with VictoriaMetrics/Logs, Grafana, and Fluentd. Developed Github Actions pipeline for code quality checks. Standardized and templatized DNS name creation for consistency.
- **Network Engineering:** Network is a set of radio-connected towers, private backhauls and the public internet. Ensured privacy through VPN tunnels, Mikrotik-to-Mikrotik. Configured network segmentation, firewall rules, Wireguard access controls, and routing (OSPF).
- **Distributed Systems Operations:** Operated remote sensor systems with automated health monitoring, clickops, alerting, and incident response. Reduced response time and operational costs through improved metrics collecting and dashboards, thereby increasing analytics.
- **AI-assisted development:** Used Claude and Cursor to develop a Ruby-based plugin for Fluentd service. Plugin does reverse DNS lookups to annotate log streams for improved analytics.

Lead Cloud Engineer & DevSecOps

Aerospike Cloud | Portland, OR | Sept 2021 – Oct 2024

- **Database Operations at Scale:** Terraform, Ansible. Operated distributed Aerospike database clusters across AWS, GCP, and Azure. Managed deployments, upgrades, and performance tuning for production DBaaS platform serving customers globally. Led cost optimization initiative yielding a 30% reduction in dev spend through tagging and analysis.
- **Multi-Cloud Infrastructure:** Architected and maintained infrastructure across AWS (Orgs, Identity Center, multi-account), GCP, and Azure. Built reusable Terraform modules for secure-by-default provisioning. Created cross-cloud IAM patterns enabling zero-trust automated operations from nodes back to core platform.
- **Container Orchestration:** Operated an EKS workload. Customer-facing control plane app with database backend.
- **CI/CD Infrastructure:** Designed and maintained GitHub Actions workflows for infrastructure deployment (eg. SSO resources), automated testing and scanning.
- **Cross-functional Projects:** Led enterprise SSO implementation (Google Workspace + AWS Organizations + Identity Center with cross-account role chaining), automated compliance framework (SOC2/ISO27001 evidence collection via Vanta and Snyk)
- **Production Infrastructure (ETL):** Terraform, Packer, Ansible. Automated ETL procedure using a systemd service that wrapped a bash runtime. Extracted data and performed cross-cloud upload to core platform using short-term credentials. Created an on-demand resource for Support that replaced an SRE ticket for a manual extract-and-SFTP.
- **On-Call & Incident Response:** Operated in on-call rotation in accordance with SLA escalation policies. Led troubleshooting of complex distributed system issues across multiple cloud providers.
- **DevSecOps:** Monitored and evaluated CVEs. Analyzed codebase for package usage. Developed documentation and evidence for SOC2/ISO27001 audits. Collaborated on roadmap development to ensure vulnerability SLAs upheld and strategic security initiatives made progress. Created infrastructure for AWS role-chaining that enabled cloud services engineering team. Minified IAM policies using cloud analytics.
- **Technical Leadership:** Tech Lead for Cloud Engineer and SRE teams across multiple time zones. 100% retention during Lead tenure. Conducted scrum, code reviews, mentored engineers, and collaborated with Product, Support, and Compliance teams on infrastructure roadmap.

Senior DevOps Engineer (CIAM Lead)

Akamai | Portland, OR | Mar 2020 – Mar 2021

- **Cloud Infrastructure:** Built global AWS network architecture using Transit Gateways for multi-region connectivity. Designed IAM policies and security patterns for engineering teams.
- **CI/CD Transformation:** Led 4-engineer team, including a migration from Jenkins to GitHub Actions for Identity Cloud SaaS platform, improving deployment reliability and speed.
- **Observability:** Contributed to Prometheus, Grafana, OpenSearch, and CloudWatch monitoring infrastructure for production SaaS operations.
- **On-Call:** Participated in on-call rotation for incident response and system reliability.

DevOps Engineer

CloudBolt | Portland, OR | Oct 2019 – Mar 2020

- **CI/CD Infrastructure:** Owner of CI/CD infrastructure; developed for reliability, scalability, cost efficiency.
- **Release Engineering:** Owned and operated build and release tooling to deliver key artifacts (executables, OVA, AMI, Azure images).
- **Technologies:** Jenkins, Docker, Packer, vSphere, AWS (ECS, EC2, virtual networking), Python, bash.

Senior DevOps Engineer

IGNW & Nike | Beaverton, OR | May 2018 – Sept 2019

- **Container Infrastructure:** Operated Docker Swarm on Azure Scale Sets for retail operations release platform. Managed containerized Jenkins infrastructure with high availability and observability (ELK).
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Designed Terraform modules for AWS ECS deployments. Built automated infrastructure provisioning using Ansible for CI/CD pipelines.
- **Database Support:** Supported development teams with infrastructure for database-backed applications and mock service deployments.

Software Engineer

Townsend Security | Olympia, WA | Mar 2013 – Mar 2018

- **Encryption Key Manager:** QA and release engineering secrets manager. Released as a hardware security module (HSM) and VM for vSphere, AWS, Azure, etc.
 - **Infrastructure Automation:** Developed Python automation for HSM configuration, reducing setup time from hours to 15 minutes.
 - **Software, QA and Testing:** Built CLI tool (API wrapper) and regression test framework. Release version management.
 - **Customer Support:** Escalation contact. Directly worked with customers to resolve technical issues. Reproduced customer environments with complex architectures and data loads for stubborn issues.
 - **CI/CD:** Deployed Jenkins and developed nascent pipelines.
 - **Compliance:** Contributed to FIPS-140-2 compliance certification.
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Education

- University of Washington | Seattle, WA | B.A., Economics