

# Trent Nielsen

(616) 834-0746  
<https://about.trentnielsen.me>  
trentnielsen616@gmail.com

---

## SITE RELIABILITY ARCHITECT

I am a Cloud Developer and Solutions Architect based in West Michigan. I have a strong infrastructure, application development, and process optimization background. I am known for leading cross-functional technical teams and delivering scalable, cost-effective, and secure solutions. I have a proven ability to translate complex requirements into practical, cost-effective architectures that drive measurable value. I have worked with nearly every aspect of an enterprise and know what it takes to deliver end-to-end solutions encompassing identity management, security, networking, application development, compliance, documentation, process, and more.

## EXPERIENCE

### **Parsons Xtreme Golf, Remote – Enterprise Architect**

**Fall 2017 – Spring 2025 (8 years)**

PXG is a global golf equipment manufacturer with operations in multiple countries. Since the company's early startup phase, I was the primary architect of all infrastructure, driving a cloud-native, automation-first approach focused on reliability, modularity, and scalability to support rapid growth and international expansion.

- Led cost optimization initiatives for AWS and observability tooling (Datadog), reducing spend by over 40%
- Implemented global networking architectural changes that saved millions in TCO over 7 years.
- Designed and implemented global AWS-based networking and infrastructure; developed custom IaC and Ansible tooling to accelerate deployments, cutting application/service rollout time by over 50% and build cycles by 75%.
- Scoped, migrated, and implemented over 100 applications and services from end-to-end.
- Rewrote legacy warehouse fulfillment app, increasing operational efficiency and inventory accuracy, and enabling data-driven business insights on improving operational workflows and identifying fulfillment bottlenecks.
- Defined and executed an org-wide environment and development strategy to unify tooling, naming conventions, and platform usage across teams, improving consistency and feature delivery.
- Re-architected a data platform for efficiency, consisting of automated ingestion, transformation, and export pipelines, saving hundreds of manual development hours and accelerating access to business-critical analytics.

- Championed enterprise governance practices—owning cloud security, compliance, networking, compute, storage, and cost—while aligning application design with architecture and compliance standards.
- Authored and maintained architectural standards, infrastructure policy, documentation frameworks, and review processes using Atlassian tools; led regular security assessments and compliance remediation efforts.

### **Tier 3 Consulting, Remote – IT Consultant**

**Summer 2019 – Summer 2021 (Multiple contract engagements within 2 years)**

Tier3 is a consulting agency that provides IT and software services to various clients in various sectors. These contracts were scoped and managed as limited engagements to support an event-based company that hosts public events across the USA.

- Overhauled and standardized network infrastructure for event-based organization, including switch, firewall, and power upgrades; rearchitected for PCI compliance and long-term scalability.
- Implemented new IP scheme and reconfigured all servers/devices to align with new topology; remediated new firewall devices and explicit rulesets to meet security and compliance standards.
- Trained staff on new architecture and implemented mobile data center strategy to support recurring off-site events.
- Supported quarterly events for an event-based company with high resilience, reliability, and uptime requirements.

### **City of Glendale, Arizona – Senior Network Engineer**

**Winter 2016 – Fall 2017 (1.5 years)**

The City of Glendale IT department is a centralized IT department responsible for supporting all branches of local government, including law enforcement, fire, municipal courts, parks and recreation, and public works, each with its unique reliability (life or death), security(securing sensitive data), and compliance requirements (PCI, CJIS).

- Implemented Python automation to automatically turn down unused ports, reducing the need for physical site audits and saving hundreds of hours in manual effort.
- Led complete network modernization across over 38 sites, re-architecting and implementing the migration from a flat network to segmented VLANs within an aggressive 18-month time frame.
- Directed enterprise firewall upgrade project, replacing 14 legacy devices with Palo Alto NGFWs; redesigned VPN architecture and improved L2L/IPSec integrations across all internal and external government agencies.
- Overhauled wireless infrastructure, from SSIDs to 802.1X to MFA to guest networks for the general public and emergency responder services.
- Deployed mobile cellular hardware and software VPN to support remote police system communication and system integration.
- Eliminated 30+ redundant network devices, resolved asymmetric routing issues, reduced device expenditure by hundreds of thousands of dollars, and improved uptime.
- Designed and implemented segmented PCI network, patron VDI routing, and dynamic BGP failover architecture; maintained SNMP monitoring, documentation, and lifecycle forecasting to support uptime and compliance.
- Designed and implemented architecture to support Azure Gov cloud rollout for cloud-based identity federation services.

## **Cox Communications, Arizona** – Senior Network Engineer

**Spring 2010 – Fall 2015 (5 years)**

Cox Communications is an ISP headquartered in Phoenix, AZ. I held many positions during my five-year tenure, starting in residential customer service and ending in the Fulfillment Engineering team.

- Developed and maintained automation scripts in VBScript to accelerate deployment pre-flight checks of large-scale telecom hardware, reducing manual workload and saving 200+ hours per week in operational effort.
- Designed, configured, and deployed Internet and Layer 2 services across diverse transport types; supported internal technicians and customers with BGP peering, demarc handoffs, circuit turn-ups, and network acceptance testing.
- Collaborated with architecture teams on proof-of-concept testing and new product rollouts; verified circuit designs and architecture implementation.

## **CERTS**

Cisco Certified Network Professional  
(2015 – 2021 – Expired)

AWS Cloud Solutions Architect  
Associate (2020 – 2026 – Current)

## **OTHER**

**West Michigan AWS User Group, Michigan** – Organizer and presenter

**Dirt Dawgs, Michigan** – Volunteer Coach

## **SKILLS**

- AI
- Active Directory
- Airflow
- Ansible
- Apple
- Atlassian
- AWS (Many Services)
- Azure
- Bicep
- Bash
- BGP
- Certificates
- CDK
- CI/CD
- Cisco
- Cloudflare
- Cloudformation
- Datadog
- Database
- DataOps
- Django
- DBT
- DevOps
- Docker
- Documentation
- DNS
- Duo
- EntraId
- ECS
- ERP
- Flask
- Firewalls
- Fivetran
- Fortinet
- GitHub
- Gsuite
- Hightouch
- HTML
- IIS
- Javascript
- Jenkins
- Juniper
- Leadership
- Linux
- MSSQL
- MySQL
- .NET
- Networking
- Nginx
- Next.js
- Node.js
- Nutanix
- Okta
- OSPF
- Palo Alto
- Postman
- Ruckus
- Python
- Pulumi
- RADIUS
- Security
- Selenium
- Slack
- Terraform
- TypeScript
- Ubuntu
- WAF
- Windows