

James A. Pancoast

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Summary

Cloud expert with experience architecting, deploying, and maintaining large scale deployments on AWS and Azure following Immutable infrastructure and Infrastructure as code philosophies, with extensive experience interfacing with clients. Self starter who desires to learn and implement new technologies.

Skillset

- AWS, Azure, GCP
- Kubernetes, Docker, Nomad
- Terragrunt
- Jenkins CI, Azure Devops
- Compliance: PCI, SOC2
- Terraform, Consul, Packer, Vault
- Immutable Infrastructure
- Python, Perl, and Shell Scripting
- Ansible
- GitHub Actions

Certifications

- AWS Solutions Architect Professional
- AWS Devops Engineer Professional
- Hashicorp Terraform Associate
- Hashicorp Consul Associate

Professional Background

Platform Engineering Manager & Senior Platform Architect
Petabloc, LLC

May 2021 - Present
New York, NY

Worked primarily with our largest and most important client to architect and deploy cloud based infrastructure in AWS

- Manage and mentor a team of 3 platform engineers.
- Helped create a Petabloc mentorship program and mentored multiple engineers to help them advance their skills.
- Lead a project to quickly implement terraform for AWS EKS for a clients business group that needed to migrate their solution to Kubernetes because of licensing issues.
- Implemented Terragrunt & Terraform to create clients AWS development resources from scratch. The code built networking, EKS clusters, S3 buckets, and cloudfront distributions.
- Worked closely with several client groups to gather requirements, plan, and implement Terraform for creating EKS clusters with all the client required infrastructure already installed and ready to use. The client has many strict security & logging (Splunk, Crowdstrike Falcon) requirements as well as several pieces of infrastructure all client teams will be required to use.
- Implemented AWS Managed Grafana & Prometheus for a clients multiple AWS accounts using Terraform
- Created a plan to help a client modernize their Terraform code and usage. The plan covers git repository restructure, code reuse & best practices, security scanning, and CI / CD via Atlantis.

Distinguished Engineer (Platform)

Feb. 2014 - May 2021

Kenzan Media

Denver, CO

Work closely with all levels of Kenzan and Client stakeholders, from developers to CTO's, in all stages of

engagements, to design and deploy large scale cloud based infrastructure.

- Lead Architect for a distributed migration team tasked with moving applications into Azure for one of the largest cloud migrations in history.
- Lead the initiative to implement Infrastructure As Code (IAC), for our clients, primarily with Terraform. Evaluated other options as they became available, like Pulumi.
- Lead a project that produced terraform modules which Kenzan could leverage to accelerate the initial stages of cloud deployments. The AWS modules include code for vpc's, vpc peering, security groups, ECR, and EKS. The kubernetes modules installed and configured istio, jaegar, prometheus, helm, and fluentd. It also includes an infrastructure module that configures namespaces, secrets, and service accounts. All modules include tests using kitchen-terraform.
- Mentored new team members by leading them on a project to design and build out an active / passive Highly Available / Disaster Recovery project on AWS EKS. Infrastructure consisted of EKS and Aurora MySQL clusters in separate regions and was deployed via terraform. The example app was written in Go and a jenkins CI / CD pipeline was used for build and deployment.
- Designed and implemented a highly available Hashicorp Vault setup using a Consul based backend. Infrastructure was deployed via terraform and images built with Packer. Documented update and recovery methods and kept the cluster up to date with zero downtime
- Helped Netflix to Open Source Spinnaker and Titus. We were the first teams outside of Netflix to see either product and get them running. Produced terraform code that launched a Spinnaker cluster in AWS and presented it at the Netflix meetup where Spinnaker was officially released.
- Implemented and helped maintain the Netflix stack for a major cable provider. Infrastructure was in AWS and consisted of Eureka, Zuul, Asgard, and other tools to deploy and maintain a VM based microservices architecture.
- Researched, built, and documented a Proof of Concept using AWS' Landing Zone offering to prepare for an incoming Asian telco client. The team was able to get started and deliver value much quicker than they normally would have been able to.
- Investigated Kubernetes Container Networking Interface (CNI) and presented an internal talk describing how it worked.

Senior Developer, iOS & Android

2012 - Feb. 2014

Time Warner Cable

Denver, CO

Provided mobile development and support for the TWC TV, TWC SportsNet, and TWC News apps.

- Implemented Jenkins CI and OS X build workers for all iOS and Android builds to accelerate our build process. Builds were used by stakeholders to test the applications on their devices.
- Configured and deployed server side infrastructure for the TWC News application using Nginx and HAProxy with an extremely limited timeframe.
- Advocated for, and created, our own modular service monitoring solution in Python for the TWC news service.

Senior Systems Engineer, UNIX

2006 - 2012

Time Warner Cable

Herndon, VA / Denver, CO

Responsible for architecting, purchasing, and deploying the development and production Linux and Solaris infrastructure for several websites for a fortune 200 company, including TWC's most popular site which received several million unique hits a month.

- Worked closely with development teams to gather system requirements. Purchased, configured, documented, and automated installation process for easy recovery and data center deployment.
- Increased traffic capacity and cut costs by leading the effort to move to A10 load balancers.

- Planned and executed a data center move of approximately 100 servers and supporting hardware. Configured switches, routing, firewall rules, physical network, distributed storage, and brought the servers back online with minimal developer downtime.

Lead Systems Architect & Developer

2002 - 2006

Uversa

Herndon, VA

Responsible for Office IT, Website Development, and LAMP based infrastructure.

- Maintained 99.7% uptime for our production LAMP application with extremely limited budget and no support staff.

Vice President, Technical Operations

2000 - 2002

Browsermedia

Bethesda, MD

Responsible for helping co-founder build a startup by recruiting a team of systems engineers and front end web developers with diverse skill sets.

- Worked closely with our primary customer to implement, deploy, and maintain a Linux and MySQL based server infrastructure.
- Managed technical team of 10 programmers and systems administrators.
- Drafted proposals and requirements analyses with clients and sales team.

Education

George Mason University

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, Graduated *Magna Cum Laude*.