

Amjad Syed

Senior DevOps & Platform Engineer

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Relocating to New Zealand. Requires work visa sponsorship.

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Hands-on Senior DevOps & Platform Engineer with eight years in DevOps, cloud and platform engineering and fifteen years in technology overall. Day to day I build and operate production platforms on a hybrid AWS and Azure estate: infrastructure as code with Terraform and Bicep, CI/CD and DevSecOps in Jenkins and Azure DevOps, cloud networking and identity, observability with Prometheus, Grafana and Azure Monitor, incident response and on-call, and continuous cloud cost optimisation. I have set technical direction for seven years while staying in the codebase. I am looking for a hands-on senior engineering role.

CORE SKILLS

Cloud & platforms: AWS, Microsoft Azure, hybrid cloud estates, Kubernetes (EKS, AKS), Docker, Helm, Linux

Automation & infrastructure as code: Terraform, Bicep and ARM, Ansible, PowerShell, Python, Bash, release automation

CI/CD & DevSecOps: Jenkins, Azure DevOps Pipelines, GitHub Actions, Git, dependency and container image scanning, static analysis and secret scanning in the pipeline, managed secrets over long-lived credentials, policy-as-code guardrails

Cloud networking: VPC and VNet design, subnets and peering, DNS, load balancing, network security groups, private endpoints, hybrid connectivity

Databases: PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis, MongoDB, backup and restore, capacity planning

Security & identity: Cloud security, least-privilege IAM, Microsoft Entra ID, Okta, SAML, OIDC, MFA, Azure Policy, governance and landing zones

Reliability & operations: Prometheus, Grafana, Azure Monitor and Log Analytics, Splunk, Sumo Logic, SLOs and alerting, incident response, on-call, capacity planning, disaster recovery

AI-assisted engineering: Agentic AI tooling in the delivery loop for code review, infrastructure-as-code scaffolding, runbooks and incident triage, with human review ahead of production

Practice: Platform engineering, deep troubleshooting across cloud, network and Linux, cloud cost optimisation, technical direction and mentoring, Agile and Scrum

SELECTED CAREER IMPACT

AWS data-platform separation. Part of carving Lumi out of Seera Group after its public listing, a two-year regulatory, compliance-driven separation delivered on schedule with no service disruption. Rebuilt the AWS data platform as an independent estate: Amazon EMR clusters, Apache Airflow orchestration, Tableau and production machine-learning workloads, cut over without breaking a single pipeline. Worked directly with the Data Engineering and Data Intelligence teams and avoided SAR 2 million (approximately NZD 910,000) in quoted professional-services costs.

Okta identity separation. Established Lumi's independent Okta identity environment end to end: procurement, Active Directory integration, MFA and application SSO using SAML and OIDC. Designed and implemented the solution personally, avoiding SAR 1 million (approximately NZD 456,000) in quoted professional-services costs.

Almosafer platform build. Implemented the end-to-end production platform for the Almosafer travel product single-handedly: Amazon EKS, CI/CD pipelines, Keycloak for identity, Istio service mesh, NGINX ingress and full monitoring and alerting. The platform scaled from zero to 4,000 bookings a day.

Apigee to Kong gateway replacement. Almosafer Business ran an Apigee API gateway implemented by an external consultancy. Evaluated what the platform actually used, found none of the Apigee-specific capabilities were in play, and replaced it with Kong, removing approximately USD 300,000 (about NZD 513,000) of licensing cost with no loss of capability.

Build vs buy: HR workflow automation. A commercial robotic-process-automation rollout was proposed to automate a set of HR workflows. Analysed what those workflows actually required and built the integration in Python against the HR platform's OData API instead, avoiding the RPA licences, the dedicated infrastructure to run them and two additional engineering hires, equivalent to SAR 645,150 (approximately NZD 294,000) in avoided annual operating cost.

Almosafer data platform. Automated Almosafer's data-platform infrastructure with Terraform, introduced scalable Amazon EMR capacity and implemented Prometheus and Grafana monitoring, improving ETL performance, reliability, recovery and environment consistency.

Wellcome Sanger cloud standardisation. Consolidated fragmented GCP and AWS workloads onto a standardised AWS platform, automated infrastructure provisioning and introduced monitoring, security and compliance controls for sensitive healthcare and genomic data. Reduced operational complexity and helped research teams launch new DNA research processes faster.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lead DevOps Engineer, Lumi · Dubai, UAE

Jun 2024 – Present

- Build and run Lumi's hybrid AWS and Azure cloud hands-on across Kubernetes, Terraform, CI/CD and observability.
- Apply DevSecOps across the delivery pipeline: dependency, container image, static analysis and secret scanning wired into builds, managed secrets in place of long-lived credentials, and policy-as-code guardrails on the estate.
- Own the Azure estate end to end: landing zones and Azure Policy governance, AKS, VNet and private-endpoint networking, Entra ID and conditional access, Bicep and Terraform, and Azure DevOps pipelines alongside Jenkins.
- Operate production platforms with Prometheus, Grafana and Azure Monitor, incident response and on-call, PowerShell and Python operational automation, and continuous cloud cost optimisation.
- Led Lumi's technology separation from Seera Group across cloud, data and identity workstreams (see Selected career impact).

Lead DevOps Engineer, Almosafer · Dubai, UAE

Jan 2023 – Jun 2024

- Automated data-platform infrastructure for a high-traffic travel platform with Terraform and Amazon EMR, and introduced Prometheus and Grafana monitoring.

Senior DevOps Engineer, Wellcome Sanger Institute · Cambridge, UK

Jun 2022 – Jan 2023

- Standardised fragmented GCP and AWS workloads onto a single automated AWS platform, with security and compliance controls for sensitive healthcare and genomic data.
- Built and ran cloud and on-premises infrastructure for scientific digital products, working across a small engineering team.

Senior DevOps Engineer, Seera Group · Dubai, UAE

Jan 2018 – Jun 2022

- Implemented the end-to-end production platform for Almosafer single-handedly: Amazon EKS, CI/CD, Keycloak identity, Istio service mesh, NGINX ingress and monitoring, scaling it from zero to 4,000 bookings a day.
- Replaced a consultancy-implemented Apigee API gateway with Kong after evaluating actual usage, removing approximately USD 300,000 (about NZD 513,000) of licensing cost.
- Built and ran cloud infrastructure, automation and CI/CD for the group's travel and hospitality platforms for four-plus years.
- Ran the data layer across PostgreSQL, MySQL, Redis and MongoDB, with capacity planning, backup and restore and disaster recovery.

Senior Platform Administrator, Broadcom (CA Technologies) · Hyderabad, India

Apr 2013 – Dec 2017

- Administered enterprise platforms and infrastructure across Linux and Windows, automating routine operational tasks with shell and Python.
- Implemented Sumo Logic for centralised log aggregation, dashboards and alerting across the estate.

Release Engineer, IG Group · Bengaluru, India

2012

- Ran Linux production environments, packaged Java applications with Maven, and built Splunk dashboards and alerting.

Software Engineer, Tech Mahindra · Bengaluru, India

2011 – 2012

- Supported WebLogic and Apache on Solaris and Red Hat Linux, resolved priority-1 incidents, and automated deployments with shell scripts.

OPEN SOURCE

tiaki (Go) · github.com/amjad489/tiaki

Read-only AWS technical readiness scanner for selected NZISM and PSR information-security controls. Single static binary, no mutating API calls, versioned control mappings, and terminal, JSON or HTML reports. Every finding states its evidence, its remediation and what an automated check cannot verify.

goconsul (Go) · github.com/amjad489/goconsul

Command-line tool to list and export all keys, or a prefix, from a Consul KV store, making configuration backup and migration between clusters a one-line operation.

pys3browser (Python) · github.com/amjad489/pys3browser

Browser-based S3 bucket explorer built with Python, Flask and boto3.

EDUCATION

Master's in Computer Systems Security

University of South Wales (formerly University of Glamorgan), United Kingdom

REFEREES

Available on request.