Saad Yaldram

Lead DevOps Engineer

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DevOps Engineer with years of experience, specializing in cloud automation and infrastructure optimization. Works closely with operations teams and leadership to drive project delivery and adapt to a wide range of DevSecOps tools and technologies.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming & Scripting: Python, SQL, NodeJS, Lua, Bash

DevOps & CI/CD: GitHub Actions, Jenkins, Terraform, Helm, Kubernetes, Docker

Cloud Platforms: AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda, DynamoDB, CloudFront, AWS Config, AWS Glue, Athena, AWS StepFunctions)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead DevOps Engineer
Booz Allen Hamilton

08/2021 - Present *Richmond, VA*

- Reduced infrastructure costs by $26,700 per year for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by designing and deploying a custom self-hosted ephemeral GitHub Actions runner on AWS that improved developer and data scientist experience.
- Developed and deployed an automatic tagging solution for AWS resources using a custom AWS Config rule backed by AWS Lambda. This enforced compliance with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) policy across 50 AWS accounts and for the first time, provided accurate billing information across program & contractor categories.
- Built Grafana dashboards powered by Loki, Prometheus, Fluentbit & Opentelemtry to provide real-time visibility into the custom GitHub Actions runner, enabling tracking of team adoption, monitoring resource utilization, and uncovering insights to optimize job execution time and accelerate pipelines.
- Implemented auto-optimization logic to monitor CPU, memory, and storage utilization, automatically selecting optimal instance types for subsequent GitHub Action jobs to balance cost and performance using the custom GitHub Actions runner.
- Enhanced developer and data scientist productivity by pre-configuring software runtimes and essential CLI tools, reducing pipeline setup time and ensuring consistency across environments using the custom GitHub Actions runner.
- Developed a cloud resource inventory collector application for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to track provisioned government resources. Leveraged AWS Glue and Athena to provide stakeholders with query insights into deployed assets such as S3 bucket sizes, EC2 instance types, and other resource metadata.
- Engineered a Model Context Protocol (MCP) server that integrated large language models with AWS logs, metrics, and the GitHub API, streamlining the analysis and debugging of failed GitHub Action jobs on the custom ephemeral runner and improving incident resolution efficiency.
- Updated GitHub Actions Runner Controller (ARC) software versions within Kubernetes clusters using Helm charts, effectively deploying and managing Custom Resource Definitions to enhance CI/CD capabilities.

DevOps Engineer
Pearl Business Solutions LLC

08/2020 - 08/2021 *Richmond, VA*

- Led a financial optimization project, leveraging technical expertise to drive cost reduction initiatives, resulting in optimized resource allocation and enhanced fiscal management. Conducted comprehensive performance and cost analysis of ARM-based chips, identifying ARM as the most cost-effective solution.
- Designed and documented AWS Network Firewall architectures, evaluating multiple deployment models—including contractor-owned accounts with a single NFW for egress traffic and organization-wide NFW accounts—and presented pros and cons for each approach to guide stakeholder decision-making.
- Created a CI/CD pipeline to scan AWS accounts for EC2 instances using IMDSv1 and documented security vulnerabilities. Utilized AWS StepFunction, Lambda functions, and Terraform IaC to generate summary reports for leadership.
- Automated the launch of compliant EC2 instances using a Terraform template stored in SCM, enforcing the use of the latest RHEL AWS AMI (Gold Images), compliant subnets and VPCs, IAM policies, and tags.
- Mentored 5+ junior developers in Python and Jenkins, enabling them to independently maintain CI/CD pipelines and automate workflows.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Analyst
Owens & Minor

12/2018 - 07/2021 *Mechanicsville, VA*

- Developed and maintained automated capital expenditure reports using SQL and Python, ensuring timely identification of discrepancies and mitigating financial risks, which resulted in a 15% reduction in compliance-related issues.
- Created Python scripts to extract financial data from MySQL and populate Excel reports, reducing manual data entry by 50% and minimizing errors in financial statements.
- Created SQL queries to extract financial data, then utilized Python DataFrames to transform the data into presentable reports for management, providing monthly reports for accuracy.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to optimize financial reporting processes and reduce reporting cycle times while maintaining data accuracy and integrity.

CERTIFICATES

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional (01/2023 - Present)

AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional (09/2022 - Present)

CKA: Certified Kubernetes Administrator (08/2024 - Present)

CompTIA Security + (12/2021 - Present)

CompTIA Network + (01/2022 - Present)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Accounting
University of Maryland, College Park

08/2008 - 05/2012

PERSONAL PROJECTS

AWS Cloud Resume Challenge

- Leveraged Terraform to define and provision the entire application infrastructure, enabling automated deployment, scalability, and resource management.
- Designed the application to be serverless, utilizing AWS Lambda functions for compute, Amazon S3 for static content storage, and Amazon API Gateway for RESTful API endpoints, ensuring cost efficiency and high availability.
- Implemented a CI/CD pipeline using GitHub actions, enabling automated testing, building, and deployment of application updates upon code commits.
- Integrated Amazon DynamoDB as the database layer for efficient data storage and retrieval, ensuring seamless scalability and low-latency performance.

Data Science & Machine Learning

- Developed and deployed a Python Flask web application, ‘RealEstate vs Demographics’, utilizing TensorFlow to predict housing prices based on state demographics.
- Engineered a robust data pipeline to clean, process, and analyze US census data, providing insightful real estate trends and demographic patterns.
- Implemented a deep learning model with TensorFlow to accurately forecast real estate values, enhancing data-driven decision-making for stakeholders.
- Managed application hosting on an EC2 instance, ensuring high availability and scalability with Gunicorn and Nginx as web servers.
- Configured CloudFront distribution and Route 53 for efficient content delivery and reliable DNS management, respectively.
- Created interactive visualizations and graphs to represent complex data sets, making them accessible and understandable to a non-technical audience.