

Leo Pitts

Azure Infrastructure Engineer

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SUMMARY

Azure Infrastructure Engineer with 10 years of **cloud engineering** experience, including more than seven years operating **Microsoft Azure** production platforms. Builds secure, resilient foundations across compute, storage, networking, identity, platform services, and **Azure Kubernetes Service**. Creates maintainable **infrastructure-as-code** with Terraform, Bicep, and ARM templates, then connects it with Azure DevOps and GitHub Actions for dependable delivery. Brings practical experience with hybrid cloud, distributed workload observability, service mesh adoption, FinOps reporting, and SOC 2, HIPAA, and PCI-DSS controls. Ready to bring calm operational judgment, clear documentation, and hands-on partnership with application, security, and SRE teams at Northstar Cloudworks.

EXPERIENCE

Principal Azure Infrastructure Engineer

Crescent Harbor Systems 📅 March 2023 - Present 📍 Raleigh, NC

Leads Azure platform architecture and production operations for more than 40 workloads. Guides infrastructure-as-code, AKS reliability, delivery automation, security governance, observability, and FinOps across development, staging, and production. Partners with application, security, finance, and SRE teams on resilient cloud-native delivery.

- Directed Azure architecture across AKS, App Service, Azure Functions, SQL Database, Storage Accounts, Key Vault, and private networking, aligning platform choices with availability and compliance goals.
- Standardized Terraform and Bicep modules for subscriptions, hub-and-spoke networking, managed identities, policy assignments, and AKS foundations, limiting configuration drift across environments.
- Moved fragmented release scripts into **Azure DevOps** and **GitHub Actions** workflows with approval gates, policy checks, security scanning, and repeatable rollback procedures for safer delivery.
- Established AKS practices for node-pool sizing, cluster upgrades, workload identity, ingress, autoscaling, and Istio controls, supporting reliable releases across distributed services.
- Implemented **Azure Monitor**, Log Analytics, **Application Insights**, Prometheus, and Grafana dashboards with actionable alerts and runbooks, shortening platform incident triage.
- Partnered with security and finance leaders on Azure Policy, **Defender for Cloud**, RBAC reviews, tagging standards, FinOps reporting, and **SOC 2** and HIPAA-aligned operations.

Senior Cloud Engineer

Blue Ridge Digital Services 📅 July 2020 - February 2023 📍 Charlotte, NC

Owned Azure landing zones and delivery improvements for customer-facing and hybrid platforms. Combined network architecture, PaaS services, AKS operations, automation, **CI/CD**, monitoring, recovery planning, and team coaching. Improved repeatability and gave engineers clearer paths through production troubleshooting.

- Designed Azure landing zones with Virtual Networks, private endpoints, load balancing, Azure Firewall, Entra ID, and managed PaaS services, creating controlled paths for customer-facing workloads.
- Built reusable Terraform modules plus Python, PowerShell, and Bash automation for provisioning, certificate rotation, backup validation, and controlled decommissioning.
- Improved AKS deployments through **cluster autoscaler**, availability zones, managed identities, **Azure Container Registry**, ingress controllers, and workload resource policies.
- Created Azure DevOps CI/CD pipelines for infrastructure and container applications, adding **pull-request validation**, Terraform plan review, image scanning, and **staged deployment approvals**.
- Centralized application, infrastructure, and Kubernetes telemetry with Azure Monitor, **Log Analytics**, Application Insights, and Grafana across hybrid workloads.
- Documented recovery procedures, network dependencies, access models, and escalation paths, then coached five engineers on secure Azure delivery and production troubleshooting.

Cloud Infrastructure Engineer

HarborPoint Financial Technologies 📅 September 2018 - June 2020 📍 Richmond, VA

Supported migration and operation of regulated financial services workloads across on-premises VMware and Microsoft Azure. Delivered **Terraform**-managed environments, **AKS** support, automation, release controls, and evidence for PCI-DSS and SOC 2 programs. Built practical habits around peer review, least privilege, and production readiness.

- Migrated selected financial services workloads from VMware into Azure **Virtual Machines**, App Service, Azure SQL, Blob Storage, and **site-to-site connectivity**, improving platform consistency.
- Converted manual environments into Terraform-managed subscriptions, network components, storage policies, and role assignments with peer-reviewed version control.

- Supported production AKS clusters by tuning node pools, ingress routing, health probes, secrets management, and upgrade plans for microservice applications.
- Automated inventory collection, access reviews, backup checks, and health reports with PowerShell and Python, giving operations teams repeatable signals for follow-up.
- Integrated Azure DevOps release pipelines with infrastructure changes and application deployments, adding validation steps that improved delivery consistency in regulated environments.
- Helped produce **PCI-DSS** and SOC 2 evidence through logging retention, least-privilege RBAC, encryption checks, remediation tracking, and **technical documentation**.

Cloud Operations Engineer

Maple Street Analytics 📅 June 2016 - August 2018 📍 Columbus, OH

Supported transition of analytics and reporting services into Microsoft Azure. Administered compute, storage, networking, SQL, identity integrations, templates, container workloads, monitoring, and operational documentation. Worked closely with developers and infrastructure specialists to resolve deployment and connectivity issues.

- Supported Azure adoption for analytics and reporting services by administering virtual machines, storage, **virtual networks**, **Azure SQL**, and identity integrations.
- Created Bash, **PowerShell**, and **Python** scripts for provisioning support, log collection, patch coordination, service checks, and routine incident diagnostics.
- Maintained **ARM templates** and early Terraform configurations for repeatable test environments, documenting parameters, dependencies, and deployment verification steps.
- Assisted with containerized service deployments and foundational **Kubernetes** operations, including image promotion, namespace configuration, health checks, and access controls.
- Configured Azure Monitor alerts and Log Analytics queries for availability, resource health, and capacity trends, giving support teams clearer production signals.
- Produced architecture notes, support runbooks, and change records while coordinating with developers and infrastructure specialists on deployment and connectivity issues.

PROJECTS

Hybrid Azure Landing Zone Program 📅 2022

A migration effort became a chance to simplify how teams worked. Built a reference landing zone spanning Azure and on-premises infrastructure with private connectivity, identity controls, Terraform modules, Azure Policy, and documented recovery paths. Platform teams gained a repeatable starting point for secure production delivery.

AKS Service Mesh Reliability Initiative 📅 2024

A recurring service issue prompted a closer look at traffic behavior. Introduced Istio controls on AKS with workload identity, ingress standards, telemetry, health checks, and staged upgrade practices. Application and SRE partners gained clearer service signals and safer release decisions.

FinOps and Observability Operating Model 📅 2025

Cloud spend and operational noise called for shared habits. Connected Azure cost reporting with tagging standards, Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Prometheus, and Grafana dashboards. Finance, security, and engineering leaders received a common view of cost, reliability, and follow-up priorities.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Cloud Engineering Excellence Award, Crescent Harbor Systems, 2025
- Operational Reliability Recognition, Blue Ridge Digital Services, 2022
- Dean's List, Ohio State University, 2015

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering

Ohio State University 🎓 GPA: 3.8 📅 2016 📍 Columbus, OH

Coursework: *Computer Networks, Operating Systems, Cloud Computing, Distributed Systems, Computer Security*

CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert 📅 2024
- Microsoft Certified: Azure DevOps Engineer Expert 📅 2023
- HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate 📅 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Azure Core Services:** Virtual Machines, App Service, Azure Functions, Azure SQL
- **Azure Networking:** Virtual Networks, Private Link, Azure Firewall, Load Balancer
- **Azure Identity:** Entra ID, RBAC, Managed Identities, Key Vault
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Bicep, ARM templates, Terraform Associate
- **Kubernetes Platforms:** AKS, Kubernetes, Docker, Azure Container Registry
- **CI/CD Platforms:** Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions, Pull Requests, Deployment Gates
- **Automation Languages:** PowerShell, Bash, Python, REST APIs
- **Observability Tools:** Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Application Insights, Prometheus, Grafana
- **Service Mesh:** Istio, Linkerd, AKS Ingress, Workload Identity
- **Security and Governance:** Azure Policy, Defender for Cloud, RBAC, Vulnerability Remediation
- **Compliance Frameworks:** SOC 2, HIPAA, PCI-DSS, FedRAMP
- **FinOps Tools:** Azure Cost Management, Tagging Standards, Budget Alerts, Cost Reports
- **Hybrid Cloud:** Azure, VMware, On-Premises Infrastructure, Site-to-Site Connectivity
- **Deployment Reliability:** Cluster Upgrades, Autoscaling, Health Probes, Rollback Procedures
- **Data and Storage:** Storage Accounts, Blob Storage, SQL Database, Backup Validation

SKILLS

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|----------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| • Microsoft Azure | • ARM templates | • Bash | • Observability |
| • Azure Kubernetes Service | • Azure DevOps | • Python | • Hybrid cloud |
| • Terraform | • GitHub Actions | • Infrastructure-as-code | • FinOps |
| • Bicep | • PowerShell | • Cloud security | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Azure Architecture Review Facilitator, Crescent Harbor Systems, 2024 - Present
- Cloud Engineering Mentorship Circle, Blue Ridge Digital Services, 2021 - 2023
- Infrastructure Automation Working Group, Ohio State University, 2015 - 2016

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Intermediate)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Work Status : Authorized to work in United States. No sponsorship required.

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST