

James Benitez

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📍 Raleigh, NC 27609

SUMMARY

Cloud Architect with 15 years of progressive **information technology** experience across Microsoft **Azure**, AWS, and **Oracle Cloud Infrastructure**. Builds secure, scalable IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS environments that connect business priorities with dependable technology outcomes. Recent work spans reference architectures, cloud infrastructure assessments, governance standards, cost optimization, high availability, disaster recovery, business continuity, and production troubleshooting. Brings calm technical leadership during complex decisions, practical communication with cross-functional teams, and genuine investment in mentoring engineers and architects. Ready to contribute that experience at **BlueCrest Infrastructure Advisors**, supporting safe, high-quality projects for clients and helping teams deliver cloud platforms they can trust.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Cloud Architect

January 2021 - Present

Northstar Environmental Services

Raleigh, NC

Owns multi-cloud architecture, **governance**, resilience, delivery quality, and technical mentorship across corporate and field operations.

- Created Azure, **AWS**, and OCI reference architectures for 20 locations, improving delivery consistency.
- Established identity, encryption, logging, tagging, backup, and infrastructure-as-code standards for secure deployments.
- Modernized **IaaS** and **PaaS** workloads, selecting managed services for simpler application operations.
- Assessed cloud infrastructure, then guided rightsizing, capacity planning, and lifecycle controls for cost discipline.
- Exercised Azure and OCI recovery plans with application, network, and security stakeholders during failover tests.
- Mentored eight engineers through design reviews, troubleshooting, safety planning, quality checks, and architecture records.

Cloud Solutions Architect

June 2017 - December 2020

HarborPoint Technology Group

Charlotte, NC

Led client cloud solution design, landing zones, migrations, monitoring, governance, and recovery planning for regulated environments.

- Translated stakeholder requirements into Azure and AWS landing zones with availability and governance objectives.
- Implemented account structures, role-based access, policy guardrails, private connectivity, and centralized monitoring for clients.
- Built Windows, Linux, SQL Server, and container migration patterns using IaaS and PaaS services.
- Investigated application bottlenecks through Azure Monitor, CloudWatch, logs, and network diagnostics for stable performance.
- Authored cloud standards, deployment checklists, and solution blueprints used during delivery and handoff.
- Documented recovery priorities, test evidence, **communication** paths, and improvements with business and technical leaders.

Cloud Engineer

July 2014 - May 2017

Redwood Digital Operations

Richmond, VA

Provisioned and supported Azure, AWS, and OCI environments while strengthening monitoring, recovery, security, documentation, and team capability.

- Provisioned Azure and AWS compute, storage, networking, and databases through repeatable infrastructure templates.
- Supported an OCI reporting proof of concept by comparing identity, network, storage, and database needs.
- Implemented backup policies, monitoring alerts, patch coordination, and access reviews across multi-account environments.
- Restored interrupted services with logs, metrics, runbooks, and coordinated troubleshooting alongside application teams.
- Prepared encryption, access control, vulnerability, and configuration evidence for internal security assessments.
- Created onboarding guides and technical walkthroughs covering cloud fundamentals, incident response, tagging, and safe execution.

Systems Engineer

August 2012 - June 2014

CivicGrid Solutions

Durham, NC

Administered enterprise systems and supported early cloud adoption, automation, security, recovery, monitoring, and controlled infrastructure changes.

- Administered Windows, Linux, virtualization, storage, and network services for consulting applications.
- Assessed cloud adoption by inventorying workloads, mapping dependencies, and comparing Azure and AWS options.
- Automated provisioning and maintenance with PowerShell and Python across laboratory, staging, and production environments.
- Maintained monitoring, backup verification, and incident records supporting 400 employees and field teams.
- Partnered with security staff on least privilege, vulnerability remediation, endpoint hardening, and audit preparation.
- Coordinated infrastructure changes through **pre-task planning**, safety reporting, quality checks, and stakeholder windows.

Infrastructure Analyst

June 2011 - July 2012

Piedmont Data Services

Greensboro, NC

Supported server, storage, network, identity, virtualization, backup, documentation, and service operations within a professional-services environment.

- Supported server, storage, network, and identity operations through documented escalation procedures.
- Monitored system health, reviewed event logs, and kept infrastructure incidents visible for senior engineers.
- Maintained access groups, backup schedules, asset records, and configuration documentation under security controls.
- Consolidated utilization data for virtualization capacity reviews and hardware refresh planning.
- Tested backup restores in a controlled lab, documenting results and unresolved recovery risks.
- Prepared change records, followed safety planning, and communicated implementation status with application owners.

PROJECTS

Multi-Cloud Recovery Program 📅 2025

Coordinated application owners, network specialists, and security partners through Azure and OCI failover exercises. Shared lessons openly, turning test findings into clearer recovery priorities, stronger runbooks, and calmer production decisions.

Cloud Cost Governance Framework 📅 2023

Brought finance, engineering, and application teams together around rightsizing, reserved capacity, tagging, and lifecycle reviews. Practical conversations helped teams protect performance while making cloud spending easier to explain.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Cloud Architecture Excellence Award, Northstar Environmental Services, 2025
- Operational Resilience Recognition, HarborPoint Technology Group, 2020
- Technical mentor recognized for practical guidance during architecture reviews and recovery exercises

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Information Technology

2011

North Carolina State University GPA: 3.7

Raleigh, NC

Coursework: Cloud Architecture, Network Security, Database Systems, Systems Administration, Programming

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Professional 📅 2024
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert 📅 2023
- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Architect Professional 📅 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Cloud Platforms:** Microsoft Azure, AWS, Oracle Cloud Infrastructure
- **Cloud Service Models:** IaaS, PaaS, SaaS
- **Azure Services:** Azure Monitor, Azure Virtual Machines, Azure Storage
- **AWS Services:** Amazon CloudWatch, Amazon EC2, Amazon S3
- **Oracle OCI Services:** OCI Compute, OCI Storage, OCI Networking
- **Infrastructure Automation:** Infrastructure as Code, PowerShell, Python
- **Security and Identity:** Identity and Access Management, Role-Based Access Control, Encryption
- **Monitoring and Operations:** Azure Monitor, Amazon CloudWatch, Log Aggregation
- **Resilience Engineering:** High Availability, Disaster Recovery, Business Continuity
- **Governance and Compliance:** Cloud Governance, Compliance Controls, Architecture Standards
- **Networking:** Network Segmentation, Private Connectivity, Network Diagnostics
- **Virtualization and Systems:** Virtualization, Windows Server, Linux
- **Data Platforms:** SQL Server, Cloud Databases, Enterprise Reporting
- **Delivery Practices:** Migration Planning, Deployment Checklists, Technical Handoffs
- **Safety and Quality:** Pre-Task Planning, Safety Standards, Quality Management

SKILLS

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|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Cloud Architecture | • IaaS | • Governance | • High Availability |
| • Azure | • PaaS | • Disaster Recovery | • Problem Solving |
| • AWS | • SaaS | • Business Continuity | • Mentoring |
| • Oracle OCI | • Cloud Security | • Cost Optimization | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Cloud Architecture Community Mentor, North Carolina Technology Collaborative, 2022 - Present
- Volunteer Infrastructure Advisor, Triangle Technology Education Initiative, 2019 - 2021

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Proficient)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST