

Dawson Barnes

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SUMMARY

Principal Technical Program Manager with 14 years directing large scale **data center expansion, cloud infrastructure, networking, hardware deployment**, and capacity planning programs. Leads urgent initiatives where schedule pressure, technical ambiguity, constrained resources, and executive visibility require clear governance and fast decisions. Coordinates engineering, construction, network, operations, supply, and planning partners across multi site portfolios. Builds risk frameworks, dependency controls, recovery plans, milestone reporting, and readiness criteria that keep delivery moving. Communicates status, risks, dependencies, and decisions from technical working sessions through executive reviews. Removes bottlenecks while protecting safety, quality, operational readiness, and long term infrastructure strategy. Brings practical experience guiding programs from site readiness and construction through deployment, testing, turnover, and production handoff.

EXPERIENCE

Principal Technical Program Manager

January 2023 - Present

BlueRiver Cloud Services

Nashville, TN

Leads multi site data center expansion programs covering site readiness, **power and cooling** dependencies, network turn up, hardware deployment, capacity alignment, and operational handoff. Owns governance, executive reporting, risk resolution, and cross functional delivery across engineering, construction, networking, operations, suppliers, and planning teams.

- Led multi site **data center expansion** programs across network, hardware, facilities, and operations workstreams.
- Established executive governance linking **milestone health**, capacity demand, dependencies, risks, and **recovery decisions**.
- Directed rapid response reviews that resolved construction, networking, supplier, and readiness constraints.
- Built capacity reporting connecting forecast demand with **infrastructure availability** and constrained resources.
- Removed handoff bottlenecks by defining **entry and exit criteria** across delivery teams.
- Presented concise status, risk, dependency, and decision materials during executive infrastructure reviews.

Senior Technical Program Manager

March 2019 - December 2022

Cumberland Infrastructure Group

Franklin, TN

Managed multi site data center buildouts spanning design, procurement, construction, networking, compute hardware, testing, and operational readiness. Connected technical teams, suppliers, and executives through integrated schedules, risk controls, decision logs, dependency tracking, and recovery planning.

- Managed multi site data center buildouts involving network deployment, compute hardware, facilities, and readiness.
- Created integrated schedules linking design, **procurement**, construction, installation, testing, and **turnover**.
- Implemented risk practices separating immediate blockers from longer term capacity and resilience concerns.
- Led recovery planning when equipment, **construction**, or network dependencies threatened committed milestones.
- Coordinated executive reviews using **decision logs**, dependency tracking, and **escalation criteria**.
- Improved handoffs by clarifying accountable owners, **acceptance evidence**, and readiness checkpoints.

Technical Program Manager

June 2016 - February 2019

Volunteer State Networks

Nashville, TN

Directed network and infrastructure deployment programs supporting regional compute environments and customer capacity growth. Coordinated engineering, hardware, facilities, and **operations** partners through planning, installation, testing, production transition, risk review, and leadership communication.

- Directed network and infrastructure deployments supporting regional compute environments and **customer capacity growth**.
- Coordinated **engineering**, hardware, facilities, and operations through **production transition**.
- Maintained dependency maps for **circuits**, racks, power, hardware, **configuration**, and acceptance.
- Created weekly risk reviews that assigned mitigation owners before schedule conflicts grew.
- Prepared leadership updates translating technical constraints into capacity and customer impact decisions.
- Standardized deployment checklists for consistent infrastructure readiness reviews.

Infrastructure Program Manager

July 2014 - May 2016

Appalachian Data Facilities

Knoxville, TN

Managed infrastructure refresh and expansion programs across data hall, network, server, and facilities workstreams. Built milestone plans, resolved implementation conflicts, tracked procurement and technical dependencies, and supported documentation based turnover and operational acceptance.

- Managed infrastructure refresh and expansion programs across **data hall**, network, **server**, and facilities workstreams.
- Built milestone plans connecting procurement lead times, facility readiness, **installation sequencing**, and **test windows**.
- Tracked hardware and network dependencies before scheduled deployment events were affected.
- Facilitated technical reviews among **facilities**, network, systems, and operations specialists.
- Produced reports covering schedule health, open risks, decisions, and operational readiness.
- Validated documentation, **acceptance evidence**, and ownership during final turnover.

Technical Project Manager

September 2012 - June 2014

MidSouth Technology Services

Murfreesboro, TN

Coordinated server, network, and facility upgrade projects for enterprise infrastructure environments. Maintained schedules, issue logs, dependency trackers, vendor coordination, change controls, testing activities, acceptance tasks, and transition follow through.

- Coordinated server, network, and facility upgrade projects for **enterprise infrastructure** environments.
- Maintained schedules, **issue logs**, and dependency trackers across technical teams and vendors.
- Organized installation windows around hardware availability, network prerequisites, and **change controls**.
- Documented risks and escalations with technical context for senior management decisions.
- Supported infrastructure testing and transition activities by tracking acceptance tasks and defects.
- Developed delivery discipline through stakeholder communication, follow through, and infrastructure coordination.

PROJECTS

Regional Capacity Expansion Program 📅 2023

Connected capacity forecasts with site readiness, network turn up, hardware deployment, and operational acceptance across a multi site infrastructure portfolio.

Infrastructure Recovery Governance 📅 2021

Created decision logs, escalation criteria, dependency controls, and recovery reviews that helped teams address urgent delivery constraints.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Recognized by executive stakeholders for clear infrastructure risk reporting and decisive recovery planning.
- Selected to lead cross functional reviews involving engineering, construction, networking, operations, suppliers, and capacity planning.
- Built trusted professional networks across delivery teams, improving escalation speed and shared accountability.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Information Systems

2012

Middle Tennessee State University GPA: 0

Murfreesboro, TN

Coursework: Information systems, network management, database systems, project management

CERTIFICATIONS

- Project Management Certification 📅 2019
- Cloud Infrastructure Certification 📅 2021

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Program Management:** Program governance, risk management, dependency management
- **Data Center Delivery:** Data center expansion, site readiness, operational handoff
- **Cloud Infrastructure:** Cloud infrastructure, AI services, capacity strategy
- **Networking:** Network deployment, network turn up, network readiness
- **Hardware Deployment:** Compute hardware, server installation, hardware readiness
- **Construction Coordination:** Construction planning, facility readiness, site coordination
- **Capacity Planning:** Capacity forecasting, demand planning, resource constraints
- **Executive Reporting:** Status reporting, risk reporting, decision logs
- **Scheduling:** Integrated schedules, milestone planning, critical path
- **Operational Readiness:** Acceptance criteria, readiness checkpoints, production transition
- **Risk Controls:** Risk frameworks, mitigation ownership, recovery planning
- **Infrastructure Testing:** Deployment testing, acceptance evidence, defect tracking

SKILLS

- Technical program management
- Data center expansion
- Cloud infrastructure
- Networking
- Hardware deployment
- Program governance
- Risk management
- Capacity planning
- Construction coordination
- Executive communication
- Stakeholder management
- Dependency management
- Operational readiness
- Infrastructure strategy
- Cross functional execution

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Professional association participant focused on cloud infrastructure, technical program management, and data center delivery.
- Nashville technology community contributor, sharing practical lessons on infrastructure readiness and cross team execution.

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Beginner)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST