

Luke Acosta

Azure Cloud Engineer

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SUMMARY

Azure Cloud Engineer with 8 years of **cloud engineering** and infrastructure automation experience, including more than 5 years operating Microsoft Azure **production environments**. Builds secure, scalable platforms across compute, storage, networking, identity, **platform-as-a-service** offerings, and Azure Kubernetes Service. Brings hands-on delivery with Terraform, Bicep, ARM templates, Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions, PowerShell, Bash, and Python. Recent work spans hybrid cloud, distributed-workload observability, incident troubleshooting, cloud governance, FinOps, and regulated healthcare and payment-processing environments. Microsoft Certified: **Azure Solutions Architect Expert** and Azure DevOps Engineer Expert. Ready to bring practical platform leadership, clear documentation, and steady partnership with application, security, compliance, audit, and business teams at Cobalt Ridge Systems.

EXPERIENCE

Senior Azure Cloud Engineer

Northstar Digital Services 📅 April 2023 - Present 📍 Austin, TX

Owns Azure platform strategy for more than 40 production workloads, guiding AKS, App Service, Functions, Azure SQL, Storage, Key Vault, networking, identity, delivery automation, observability, and compliance initiatives. Leads architecture reviews, mentors engineers, and connects platform decisions with availability, security, cost, and business priorities.

- Re-architected three AKS environments with private clusters, managed identities, autoscaling, network policies, and availability zones, creating a repeatable pattern for customer-facing applications.
- Standardized Terraform and Bicep modules for subscriptions, hub-and-spoke **networking**, role assignments, and policy initiatives, reducing drift and shortening infrastructure review cycles.
- Built **Azure DevOps** and **GitHub Actions** pipelines with gated approvals, security scanning, artifact promotion, and rollback procedures across development, staging, and production.
- Established Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Application Insights, Prometheus, and Grafana standards, linking actionable alerts with runbooks for faster distributed-service diagnosis.
- Led security and compliance reviews that documented HIPAA and **SOC 2** controls, strengthened **identity** protections, and produced audit evidence for regulated workloads.
- Mentored five engineers on AKS operations, **cloud security**, incident troubleshooting, maintainable PowerShell, Bash, and Python automation, and clear technical documentation.

Azure Cloud Engineer

Redwood Harbor Technologies 📅 July 2021 - March 2023 📍 Raleigh, NC

Engineered production Azure landing zones and container platforms for healthcare software clients. Supported multi-node AKS operations, infrastructure-as-code delivery, CI/CD governance, automation, incident response, and audit preparation. Partnered directly with application owners and operations teams during high-impact service events.

- Engineered Azure landing zones with management groups, subscriptions, Azure Policy, RBAC, private endpoints, and centralized logging, giving healthcare clients consistent security controls.
- Operated **AKS** clusters supporting more than 25 microservices by tuning node pools, ingress, autoscaling, secrets integration, and upgrade procedures for dependable releases.
- Replaced manual environments with version-controlled Terraform modules and Bicep templates covering **compute**, **storage**, networking, identity, and platform services.
- Implemented Azure DevOps **CI/CD** workflows with quality gates, image scanning, infrastructure plan reviews, and controlled promotion between environments.
- Automated certificate rotation, resource inventory, backup validation, and access reviews with **PowerShell**, Bash, and **Python**, creating repeatable and auditable operations.
- Partnered with application owners during Sev-1 and Sev-2 incidents, using Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, and container diagnostics to isolate failures and document lasting remediation.

Cloud Engineer

Blue Mesa Financial Systems 📅 June 2019 - June 2021 📍 Phoenix, AZ

Supported migration and operation of payment-processing services across Azure and on-premises VMware infrastructure. Delivered cloud resources, **AKS** administration, infrastructure automation, release pipelines, **observability**, and PCI-DSS and SOC 2 evidence. Focus remained on secure service continuity and controlled change.

- Supported migration of payment-processing services from on-premises VMware infrastructure to Azure Virtual Machines, App Service, Azure SQL, Blob Storage, and Virtual Networks.

- Maintained AKS development and production clusters through controlled version upgrades, ingress configuration, container registry integration, and resource-quota management.
- Created reusable **Terraform** modules and PowerShell deployment scripts for network components, **storage** accounts, managed identities, and role-based access assignments.
- Developed **Azure DevOps** release pipelines with pull-request validation, environment approvals, and documented rollback checkpoints for infrastructure and application changes.
- Configured Azure Monitor workbooks, Log Analytics queries, service health alerts, and Application Insights telemetry for payment APIs and background workloads.
- Contributed to **PCI-DSS** and SOC 2 readiness by documenting privileged access, encryption, retention, backup, and change-management evidence for internal reviews.

Systems Automation Engineer

Canyon Peak Solutions 📅 June 2018 - May 2019 📍 Tempe, AZ

- Automated Linux and Windows operations across mixed on-premises and Azure environments. Built foundational infrastructure-as-code definitions, health reporting, Azure DevOps support processes, **troubleshooting** guides, and service documentation. Work gave senior engineers consistent baselines and helped service desk teams resolve routine requests independently.
- Automated provisioning and maintenance of Linux and Windows workloads across on-premises and Azure environments with **Bash**, PowerShell, and Python, improving repeatability for operations teams.
 - Built initial ARM template and Terraform definitions for virtual networks, virtual machines, storage, and identity resources, giving new environments a consistent baseline.
 - Implemented scheduled health checks and operational reports for **compute**, **storage** capacity, certificate expiration, and backup status across more than 60 servers.
 - Supported **Azure DevOps** build and release workflows by maintaining agents, service connections, environment variables, and deployment documentation.
 - Investigated connectivity, permissions, failed deployments, and resource configuration issues through structured log review and escalation procedures.
 - Produced runbooks and knowledge-base articles for recurring infrastructure tasks, helping service desk staff resolve common provisioning and access requests without **engineering** escalation.

PROJECTS

Hybrid Azure Payment Migration 📅 2021

Moved selected payment services from VMware into Azure using Virtual Machines, App Service, Azure SQL, Blob Storage, and Virtual Networks. Built rollback checkpoints, telemetry, access controls, and PCI-DSS evidence for a controlled cutover.

AKS Service Mesh Pilot 📅 2023

Evaluated Istio and Linkerd patterns on AKS for service-to-service visibility, traffic policy, and failure isolation. Documented deployment tradeoffs, operational controls, and adoption guidance for platform and application teams.

FinOps Cost Governance Dashboard 📅 2025

Created Azure cost views and ownership standards across subscriptions, resource groups, and AKS workloads. Combined tagging, budgets, utilization reviews, and actionable recommendations for clearer platform spending decisions.

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

- Cloud Reliability Excellence Award, Northstar Digital Services, 2025
- Platform Modernization Recognition, Redwood Harbor Technologies, 2022
- Azure Architecture Community Mentor, Northstar Digital Services, 2024 - Present

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering

Arizona State University 🎓 GPA: 3.7 📅 2018 📍 Tempe, AZ

Coursework: Computer Architecture, Operating Systems, Computer Networks, Software Engineering, Information Security

CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert 📅 2024
- Microsoft Certified: Azure DevOps Engineer Expert 📅 2025
- HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate 📅 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Azure Core Services:** Azure Virtual Machines, Azure App Service, Azure Functions, Azure SQL, Azure Storage, Azure Key Vault
- **Azure Networking:** Virtual Networks, Hub-and-Spoke, Private Endpoints, Network Policies, Ingress
- **Azure Identity:** Microsoft Entra ID, Managed Identities, RBAC, Role Assignments, Service Connections
- **Azure Governance:** Azure Policy, Management Groups, Subscriptions, Policy Initiatives, Resource Inventory
- **Kubernetes Platforms:** Azure Kubernetes Service, Kubernetes, Docker, Node Pools, Resource Quotas
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Bicep, ARM Templates, Terraform Modules, Version Control
- **CI/CD Platforms:** Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions, Build Pipelines, Release Pipelines, Artifact Promotion
- **Scripting Languages:** PowerShell, Bash, Python, Linux Shell, Windows Automation
- **Monitoring and Logging:** Azure Monitor, Log Analytics, Application Insights, Service Health Alerts, Workbooks
- **Observability Tools:** Prometheus, Grafana, Container Diagnostics, Metrics, Distributed Tracing
- **Service Mesh:** Istio, Linkerd, Traffic Policy, Service-to-Service Security, AKS Integration
- **Security and Compliance:** HIPAA, PCI-DSS, SOC 2, FedRAMP, Encryption, Access Reviews
- **Cloud Operations:** Incident Response, Sev-1 Response, Sev-2 Response, Runbooks, Backup Validation
- **Cloud Economics:** FinOps, Azure Cost Management, Budgets, Resource Tagging, Utilization Reviews
- **Hybrid Infrastructure:** Azure, VMware, On-Premises Infrastructure, Hybrid Cloud, Multi-Cloud

SKILLS

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Azure Cloud Engineering | • Identity Management | • Hybrid Cloud | • Observability |
| • AKS Operations | • CI/CD Delivery | • Multi-Cloud | • Platform Engineering |
| • Infrastructure as Code | • Incident Response | • FinOps | • Compliance Controls |
| • Cloud Security | • Technical Documentation | • Troubleshooting | |

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Azure Architecture Community Mentor, Northstar Digital Services, 2024 - Present
- Cloud Engineering Knowledge Forum Organizer, Redwood Harbor Technologies, 2022 - 2023

LANGUAGES

- English (Native)
- Spanish (Proficient)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

REFERENCES

AVAILABLE ON REQUEST