

Umar Zulfiqar

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I am an experienced DevOps Engineer with a proven track record of building, deploying, and managing high-performance infrastructure across cloud and on-premise environments. My expertise spans key DevOps skills, including automation, CI/CD pipeline management, containerization, and cloud infrastructure. I am skilled in utilizing AWS services, Kubernetes, Docker, and Terraform to create scalable, secure, and resilient systems. My approach is centered on enhancing deployment efficiency through GitOps practices, managing complex multi-region and hybrid deployments, and implementing robust monitoring and alerting with Prometheus and Grafana. With a deep commitment to security, I integrate IAM, SSL, and secure communication protocols to protect infrastructure. I thrive in optimizing workflows and driving continuous improvement, ensuring high availability and seamless delivery of applications in dynamic environments.

Skills

Cloud Management • AWS • Azure • Terraform • Prometheus • Linux Administration • Vault • IAM • Virtualization • Containerization • Docker • Kubernetes • Helm • Kustomize • NodeJS • GitOps • ArgoCD • Gitlab • Jenkins • CI/CD Pipelines • Grafana • Python • ELK • Loki • Bash/Shell Scripting

Experience

2022 – PRESENT

Senior DevOps Engineer & Infrastructure Architect | SpeeQR | Lahore, Pakistan | Florida, US

- Configure and optimize AWS services, including VPC, EC2, S3, Route53, CloudFront, Load Balancers, IAM, and ACM; use Terraform for scalable cloud provisioning.
- Deploy applications on EKS with Kubernetes, managing Docker containers and using GitOps and Kustomize for Kubernetes configuration.
- Oversee CI/CD pipelines with Jenkins, ArgoCD, and GitLab to enable automated, consistent deployments across environments.
- Administer on-premise cloud infrastructure with VMware ESXi; configure NGINX and HAProxy for efficient load balancing and traffic management.
- Implement Prometheus and Grafana for monitoring, providing real-time insights into system health, performance, and early issue detection.
- Set up WebRTC media servers, manage SIP and STUN/TURN servers, and configure RTP/RTCP protocols for secure, real-time media streaming.
- Deploy and manage Node.js, React.js, and Python applications; develop and maintain custom APIs for backend functionality.
- Integrate third-party APIs and services to extend platform capabilities and improve interoperability with external systems.
- Ensure infrastructure security by managing IAM, SSL certificates, and secure communication protocols across cloud and on-premise setups.
- Utilize GitOps, Terraform, and CI/CD practices to automate processes, increasing efficiency and reducing manual workload.

DEC 2014 – JAN 2022

Manager - Cloud Infrastructure & Deployments | Wifigen | Lahore, Pakistan | Delaware, US

- Architected and deployed distributed services across multiple cloud providers (AWS, Azure, IBM SoftLayer), optimizing each service for its specific cloud platform
- Developed and implemented Eagle Eye Dashboard for global IoT device management, enabling real-time monitoring and administrative control of distributed devices
- Engineered and deployed enterprise WiFi captive portal solution supporting high-volume user authentication and access management
- Built custom WiFi router firmware based on OpenWrt, implementing advanced networking features and security protocols
- Designed and deployed AAA (Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting) server infrastructure using FreeRADIUS
- Implemented automated deployment pipelines reducing service deployment time by 70%
- Established comprehensive monitoring and alerting systems across all cloud platforms and services
- Led DevOps transformation initiatives and established modern CI/CD practices
- Managed technical roadmap and strategic planning for cloud infrastructure and networking solutions

JAN 2012 – NOV 2014

IT Manager | Flexicon SMC | Islamabad, Pakistan

Managed and optimized Linux servers for high availability and performance to support financial data processing and web services.

- Maintained the company website, ensuring smooth operation and consistent uptime for customer access to real-time financial data.
- Implemented real-time data integration from multiple sources, enabling accurate and up-to-date financial insights for users.
- Developed systems for data delivery via SMS and email, allowing customers to receive timely financial updates and notifications.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams to improve data accuracy, streamline delivery workflows, and enhance customer experience.

MAY 2009 – DEC 2011

Manager Research & Development | Tech Solutions | Lahore, Pakistan

Founded and defined the company's technical vision, driving innovation in virtualization, satellite communication, and multimedia.

- Led R&D efforts to develop advanced technology solutions, aligning with business objectives and market demands.
- Developed and implemented distance learning solutions over satellite and internet, expanding the company's service offerings.
- Mentored cross-functional teams, fostering technical skill growth and ensuring high project standards.
- Spearheaded strategic SEO initiatives to boost online presence, driving increased traffic and engagement.
- Collaborated with executive leadership to prioritize projects and steer the company's technological direction.

MAR 2008 – APR 2009

IT Manager | SUNBIZ Pvt. Ltd. | Lahore | Islamabad

Managed and maintained IT infrastructure, ensuring high availability, security, and compliance, while collaborating with cross-functional teams to drive project success.

AUG 2005 – MAR 2008

IT / Network Administrator | Royal Media Networks | Lahore, Pakistan

Served as IT administrator, overseeing network infrastructure, system maintenance, security, and data management. Successfully ensured high availability, performance, and compliance while collaborating with cross-functional teams to drive project delivery.

Projects

In 2016, I led the technical management for the Punjab WiFi project, a large-scale public WiFi initiative delivering free internet access across six major cities. This project encompassed more than 200 WiFi hotspots, supporting over 6 million users and managing a database of more than 100 million sessions. My role involved designing and managing critical backend infrastructure, including databases, AAA (authentication, authorization, and accounting), web, VPN, and dashboard servers. I implemented robust on-site monitoring systems to ensure seamless connectivity and a reliable user experience, achieving 99.9% uptime across all servers. This high-performance infrastructure allowed millions of users to access the network simultaneously, contributing to the project's success in connecting communities and promoting digital inclusivity. Through this role, I honed my expertise in managing large-scale deployments and maintaining stable, secure public networks.

Education

Bachelor's of Arts | BZU | Multan

Diploma in Computer Sciences

Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Sciences

RHCE • CCNA • CCNP