

Tony Zaarour

Sydney, Australia | Open to contract and consulting engagements

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Professional Summary

Cloud Platform Architect / Senior Platform Consultant with hands-on experience improving AWS platforms in regulated and enterprise environments. I usually get pulled into estates that have delivery friction, weak governance, messy operating boundaries, cost leakage, or workloads that have outgrown their original design.

Selected Impact

- Improved governance and compliance execution through guardrails, reporting, and control redesign.
- Delivered material annual AWS savings through commitment optimisation and platform cost control.
- Re-architected resource-heavy workloads into event-driven ECS standalone tasks to improve scalability, isolation, and maintainability.
- Reduced website dropouts for Australian Museum from roughly 20 per day to zero through targeted performance and architecture changes.

Core Strengths

- Platform governance uplift and control-model redesign
- AWS cost control and commitment optimisation
- Event-driven and container-based workload modernisation
- Automation, CI/CD, and platform tooling improvement
- Technical assessment, remediation planning, and handover

Technology

Cloud	AWS, AWS Organizations, Control Tower, IAM Identity Center / SSO
Infrastructure as Code	Terraform, AWS CDK, CloudFormation
Containers and Compute	ECS, Fargate, Lambda, Step Functions, EC2, SSM, Docker
CI/CD and Automation	GitLab CI, GitHub Actions, AWS CodePipeline, Python, Bash, JavaScript, TypeScript
Security and Observability	Security Hub, AWS Config, GuardDuty, Inspector, CloudWatch, Dynatrace, Sumo Logic, Cloudflare, AWS WAF, Vanta
Platform Tooling	Redis, OpenSearch, Nagios, ELK, Jenkins, Nexus, SVN

Professional Experience

Squiz | Senior DevOps Engineer

May 2024 – Present

- Own the internal AWS platform across a complex multi-account environment supporting shared and client-facing workloads.
 - Lead platform work across governance, compliance, workload modernisation, and cross-team delivery planning.
 - Built biweekly reporting and alerting workflows that gave product owners a clearer remediation path and improved audit readiness.
 - Reworked governance controls and guardrails to improve consistency and compliance execution.
 - Moved heavy crawler workloads into event-driven ECS standalone tasks to improve isolation, scaling, and maintainability.
 - Reduced reliance on oversized always-on compute by modernising crawler, distributor, and gatherer workloads.
 - Designed an automated AMI lifecycle for ECS worker infrastructure to standardise rollout and reduce manual maintenance.
 - Managed commitment optimisation work that delivered material annual savings while maintaining strong utilisation.
 - Led the AWS side of migration from data centre to AWS, including documentation, training, and handover.
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Versent | DevOps Engineer

Mar 2021 – Apr 2024

- Delivered cloud platform, automation, and reliability improvements across enterprise client environments.
 - Built reusable deployment tooling and automation modules that reduced manual effort across reporting, updates, alarms, and routine operations.
 - Contributed to a containerised DevOps toolbox that let engineers work safely across multiple client estates.
 - Built an API canary capability to monitor private HTTPS endpoints inside a VPC and surface failures earlier.
 - Designed and implemented a serverless anti-virus solution using Trend Cloud One for a state-level registry and land services provider.
 - Led migration from legacy email infrastructure to AWS SES with stronger security, sender reputation monitoring, and cleaner operations.
 - Reduced website dropouts for Australian Museum from roughly 20 per day to zero through targeted performance and architecture changes.
 - Tuned OpenSearch and Redis workloads to improve responsiveness, maintainability, and operational support.
 - Built CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions and ECS runners with OIDC-based short-lived AWS access.
 - Delivered client training, handover documentation, and transition support so new systems could be operated cleanly after delivery.
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AXE Group | Junior DevSecOps Engineer

Jan 2020 – Feb 2021

- Automated application deployments, Linux configuration, and security-related operational tasks.
 - Maintained Ansible playbooks and deployment workflows for Linux-based platforms.
 - Built Shell, Bash, and PowerShell tooling for environment management and deployment support.
 - Improved monitoring through development and maintenance of Nagios plugins.
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OpenMRS | Junior DevOps Engineer

Apr 2019 – Feb 2020

- Supported infrastructure and platform operations for the OpenMRS open-source community.
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Contracting Positioning

- Strong fit for platform governance uplift, modernisation, automation improvement, and cost reduction work.
- Most credible in AWS-heavy environments that need practical delivery rather than theory-only architecture.
- Less suited to contracts where deep Kubernetes specialism is the main value proposition.

Education

Bachelor's Degree in Architecture, Damascus University | 2009 – 2014