

# SYED HUZAIFA BIN AFZAL

**DevOps Engineer | Cloud Infrastructure | Site Reliability | Security**

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

DevOps and cloud infrastructure engineer with 6+ years of experience building secure, automated, reliable, and cost-efficient cloud platforms for enterprise and SaaS environments. Strong production background in AWS, Terraform-based infrastructure as code, CI/CD automation, observability, incident response, disaster recovery, cloud cost optimization, IAM/RBAC/SSO access control, and developer-enabling platform practices. Currently completing a Master of Cybersecurity & Leadership at the University of Washington - Expected June 2026, with applied work in secure enterprise generative AI, cloud security, and responsible platform operations.

## CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Cloud Platforms:** AWS primary production experience; Azure working knowledge; GCP working knowledge; Oracle Cloud Infrastructure; multi-cloud architecture concepts

**AWS Services:** EC2, S3, RDS, Lambda, API Gateway, CloudFront, Route 53, ECS, ECR, Fargate, ALB, VPC, IAM, Systems Manager, CloudWatch, SNS, SES, DynamoDB, EBS, WorkSpaces, EMR, OpenSearch, ElastiCache, Redshift, Trusted Advisor, Cost Optimization Hub

**Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, CloudFormation, modular IaC design, reusable infrastructure modules, Terraform state handling, environment standardization, IaC reviews, AWS Well-Architected practices

**Containers & CI/CD:** Docker, Docker Compose, Kubernetes exposure, ECS, EKS exposure, Jenkins, GitLab CI/CD, GitHub Actions, Git, Bitbucket, release workflows, rollback planning, post-deployment validation

**Observability & Reliability:** CloudWatch, Datadog, OpenSearch, Prometheus/Grafana exposure, monitoring, alerting, dashboards, incident triage, production troubleshooting, runbooks, disaster recovery, multi-region readiness

**Security & Automation:** IAM, RBAC, SSO, least privilege, AWS Systems Manager session access, secrets management concepts, encryption concepts, vulnerability management concepts, Python, Bash, PowerShell, JavaScript, Groovy, C++

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**DevOps Engineer | Harri (contracted by Kalam 4 Solutions)** March 2022 - May 2025

*Production AWS platform supporting enterprise SaaS customers in workforce management.*

- Designed and shipped reusable Terraform modules for AWS services including API Gateway, CloudFront, Route 53, OpenSearch, and Redshift, reducing environment provisioning time by about 40% and standardizing deployments across teams.
- Hardened security and access posture by implementing IAM/RBAC and SSO patterns, refining least-privilege boundaries, and centralizing operational access through AWS Systems Manager.
- Drove cloud cost optimization using AWS Trusted Advisor, Cost Optimization Hub, Reserved Instance strategy, rightsizing, and FinOps practices, reducing AWS spend by about 30% while preserving performance and reliability.
- Strengthened reliability and disaster recovery through Redis upgrades, OpenSearch cross-cluster replication, DR runbook improvements, and multi-region readiness work.
- Built an infrastructure analytics pipeline using S3 Inventory, Redshift, and Superset, giving SRE and engineering teams better visibility into storage usage, growth trends, and cost drivers.
- Improved CI/CD and developer velocity by refactoring deployment workflows, removing flaky steps, and standardizing release processes with stronger operational controls.
- Supported production troubleshooting, monitoring improvements, incident follow-up, design reviews, Terraform refactoring, and platform standardization across multiple environments.
- Mentored peers, trained interns and engineers on DevOps processes, and helped teams adopt stronger automation and infrastructure practices.
- Recognition: Top Performer in 2023 and 2024; earned AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate during tenure.

**Cloud Infrastructure / Software Engineer | Visionet Systems (contracted by Systems Limited)** July 2019 - March 2022

*Cloud operations, CI/CD automation, and platform modernization for enterprise AWS workloads.*

- Automated AWS operations using Systems Manager, Lambda, Python, Bash, and PowerShell for post-deployment tasks, server scheduling, OS patching, validation, and routine environment maintenance.
- Built and maintained Jenkins CI/CD pipelines for Terraform-based AWS EMR deployments and destruction workflows, including parameter handling, state-file retrieval, tagging validation, and end-user notifications.
- Developed Terraform infrastructure for AWS EMR and supported migration of Spark workloads from EC2/HDP to EMR, improving scalability, manageability, and cost efficiency for big-data processing.
- Supported application modernization from EC2 to ECS using Docker, ECR, Fargate, ALB, Route 53 service discovery, CloudWatch, networking, autoscaling, and Terraform-based deployment patterns.

- Integrated CloudWatch and Datadog monitoring across cloud-hosted applications to improve observability, alerting, and incident triage for operations teams.
- Supported high-availability enterprise workloads through runbooks, scripted remediation, patching automation, cross-functional coordination, and client-facing Agile delivery.
- Mentored junior engineers on cloud automation, CI/CD, scripting, and secure operational practices; received Best Team Award for cloud services work in 2020.

## SELECTED AI / CLOUD SECURITY PROJECT

### Secure Enterprise Generative AI Platform | University of Washington June 2025 - Present

- Designed and deployed an on-premises generative AI platform using Ollama, Open WebUI, Docker, and Windows Server to support controlled enterprise AI adoption, data residency, and role-based administration.
- Implemented Standard User, AI Platform Admin, and System Administrator access patterns; evaluated model control, storage persistence, network behavior, and governance risks; co-authored accepted IEEE SVCC 2026 paper on Shadow AI and GovernAI.

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Part-Time Student News Reporter | University of Washington September 2025 - Present

- Cover campus news, student life, and developments in IT and AI affecting the UW community; interview executives and stakeholders, including podcast conversations, and translate technical topics into clear public-facing writing.

## EDUCATION

University of Washington - Master of Cybersecurity & Leadership - Expected June 2026

GPA: 3.99 | Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society | Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society

Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology - B.S. in Computer Science, 2015-2019

## CERTIFICATIONS & HONORS

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate
- Oracle Cloud Infrastructure Architect - Professional; OCI Architect Associate; OCI Developer Associate; OCI Foundations Associate
- Foundations for Cybersecurity Analytics - University of Washington
- Top Performer - Harri (2023, 2024); Best Team Award - Systems Limited (2020)