

NICK KIRK

Cloud Infrastructure Architect

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Results-driven IT Specialist with a wealth of technical experience in system engineering, automation, administration, and support. Demonstrated expertise in building, testing, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting various cloud and on-premises systems. Passionate about deploying intricate solutions smoothly and effectively, elevating overall customer capability and success. Seeking opportunities to grow in both technical and leadership ability while contributing to a forward-looking, modern organization.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) - 2022-2023

Cloud Infrastructure Architect

Amazon Web Services (AWS) | 2022 - 2023

As a Professional Services Consultant at Amazon Web Services (AWS), I partnered with federal partner customers to solve technical and business challenges while helping them develop internal technical expertise. My responsibilities included solution design, delivery of production-ready and proof-of-concept projects, as well as architectural reviews across various customer environments. Throughout my time at AWS helping clients reach best-case outcomes, I further developed my skills in cloud computing by obtaining several AWS certifications and closely collaborating with AWS service experts.

Additional contributions include:

- Facilitation of discussions with customers on technical/architectural trade-offs, best practices, cost management, and risk mitigation
- Assisting in the sales cycle by working with prospective customers in technical Q&A sessions
- Developed reusable materials including technical artifacts, templates, and documentation for use with future engagements and customers
- Coached and developed early-career consultants in partnership with AWS Learning & Development teams increasing their knowledge, effectiveness, and autonomy

W. L. Gore & Associates - 2012-2022

Cloud Systems Engineer

W. L. Gore & Associates | 2020 - 2022

Functioned as the primary architect for cloud solutions as part of a global team. Primary responsibilities included developing and deploying end-to-end solutions utilizing AWS services to satisfy business needs in a multi-region distributed AWS footprint, utilizing DevOps methodologies including infrastructure-as-code, CI/CD pipelines, and source control.

Additional contributions include:

- Created automated processes using well-known languages and frameworks including Python, Lambda, CloudFormation, Terraform, Ansible, Bash, and PowerShell
- Partnered with development and application teams to create production-ready services and increase capabilities while adhering to security best practices
- Periodical reviews of cloud spend to identify and act upon opportunities to increase efficiency and reduce costs
- Contributed to architectural discussions to ensure solutions are designed to deliver Enterprise Architecture, Security, Compliance/Regulatory and operational requirements
- Technical mentorship of engineers and system administrators on building skills using cloud-native technologies

Data Center Systems Engineer

W. L. Gore & Associates | 2016 – 2020

Worked with a global team of Data Center Engineers and Administrators responsible for operating and maintaining an enterprise-class data center and hybrid cloud environment. Primary responsibilities included provisioning and maintaining hundreds of virtualized systems supporting a variety of applications, databases, and infrastructure workloads.

Additional contributions include:

- Designed and implemented a global Windows Server patching solution, achieving 93% first-attempt patch rate
- Tool-making utilizing PowerShell and Bash to simplify and automate team workstream tasks
- Consultative services to project teams and application owners regarding available resources and capabilities shortening time to deployment of new applications
- Partnered with Information Security teams to ensure security, compliance, availability, and disaster recovery

Client Computing Engineer

W. L. Gore & Associates | 2015 – 2016

Worked with a global team of Client Engineers to plan, develop, and automate deployment of enterprise-wide software and operating system installations. Primary contributions include the development and migration to a new configuration management system supporting over 12,000 client endpoints globally.

Additional contributions include:

- Developed a standardized, repeatable, auditable, Windows client patching process
- Built a full-scale test/development platform for imaging and software deployments to improve overall quality and speed to delivery

IT Service Desk Technician

W. L. Gore & Associates | 2012 – 2015

Certifications

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional

Dec 2022 – Validation [JZP27M5KQMRE1M3B](#)

AWS Certified Security – Specialty

Feb 2023 – Validation [1C372DC29JEQQ6WZ](#)

HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate

May 2023 – Validation [164493ed-3e4f-466d-b88a-f64e4a1227dc](#)

Key Skills

AWS Specific Technologies

- Compute – EC2, Lambda, StepFunctions
- Network – ALB/ELB, Route53, VPC, Transit Gateway, Direct Connect, VPN, CloudFront, ACM
- Storage – S3, EBS, EFS, FSx, Storage Gateway, AWS Backup, Transfer Family
- Security – IAM, STS, CloudTrail, KMS, Organizations, Config, Security Hub, GuardDuty
- Application / DB – API Gateway, SNS, Secrets Manager, SES, SQS, DynamoDB, RDS
- Misc – CloudFormation, CloudWatch, GovCloud, AWS China, Savings Plans, Cost Explorer, CodeCommit, CodePipeline, MGN, Control Tower

Additional Capabilities

- Scripting – PowerShell / Bash / Python
- Monitoring – DataDog, SumoLogic, SolarWinds
- Config Management – Ansible, Group Policy
- Virtualization – VMWare vCenter, ESXi, Nutanix
- Microsoft Stack – AD, DHCP, DNS, etc.
- Windows / Linux administration

Professional Strengths

- Effective communication
- Complex issue troubleshooting
- Innovating problem-solving
- Multitasking and prioritization
- Rapid retention and application of new skills and concepts