

MICHAEL A. HALE

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Professional Summary

Experienced cloud architect, IT consultant, and web developer with 10+ years of hands-on work building and leading teams, designing scalable and resilient systems, and helping businesses run more efficiently using the cloud. I'm comfortable tackling novel tech problems and love turning big-picture ideas into real results. I've led hybrid teams, developed processes that reduce friction within an organization, and delivered impactful products in fast-moving environments. Able to take charge in small teams or navigate large, complex organizations. I'm passionate about using technology to build things.

Professional Experience

Freelance Consultant – Chicago, IL
Architect, Senior Engineer

Various Clients (2023 – 2025)

- With my connections in the Chicago startup community, I advised growing companies on cloud strategies, infrastructure, security, and DevOps processes, ensuring scalability and readiness for continued growth.
- Guided clients through critical cloud decisions beginning with requirements gathering and developing roadmaps.
- Engineered CI/CD pipelines using GitLab and AWS, automating development processes for smoother and faster deployments. Set up observability frameworks using AWS Organizations and Control Tower for enhanced security and governance.
- Project management and team leadership, coordinating agile/scrum meetings. Balanced senior technical leadership with hands-on development to meet aggressive product timelines.

Key Projects:

- For a self-wellness startup - architected and implemented infrastructure and services to best-practice standards and be as automated as possible. This allows the technology to stay out of the way so ownership can focus on getting the business off the ground. Capabilities include e-commerce, marketing automation, and data reporting.
- Took over technical leadership duties for a failing automotive concierge startup to set goals, define a road map, refine the team, and automate processes. This set the course and helped secure additional funding and continued business operations.

Prime TSR (ConvergeOne) – Chicago, IL

AWS Consultant / Architect

May 2019 – November 2022

- Led cloud architecture and migration projects for enterprise clients, with a focus on security, resilience, and cost optimization in AWS environments.
- As an AWS Premiere Partner, conducted AWS Well-Architected Framework Reviews (WAFR) to align client goals with best practices, resulting in enhanced operational excellence and cost reductions.
- Developed and implemented custom infrastructure monitoring solutions using Splunk and SolarWinds, enabling clients to gain real-time insights into performance and cost metrics.
- Designed scalable, event-driven architectures with disaster recovery protocols and set up IAM policies for least-privilege access across development teams.
- Collaborated with cross-functional teams (executives, finance, product owners, developers) to ensure alignment of cloud strategies and technical goals, streamlining infrastructure with AWS Organizations and Control Tower.
- Led DevOps initiatives, including CI/CD pipeline creation using Jenkins, Azure DevOps, and Terraform, and containerized deployments using Kubernetes (Fargate) and Docker.
- Managed and mentored teams on cloud best practices, agile workflows, and process improvements, ensuring high-quality delivery on client projects.

Key Achievements:

- Migrated many clients to AWS for major savings and operational efficiency over traditional infrastructure, with existing cloud customers seeing **cost reductions between 25-60%** after thorough cost efficiency planning.
- Had key roles in pre-sales technical scoping and project management, consistently ensuring timely and on-budget delivery.

Purohit Navigation – Chicago, IL
Digital Solutions Architect
February 2015 – December 2018

- Oversaw the architecture and development of app and website projects for Fortune 500 clients, collaborating with cross-functional teams on product roadmaps and technical designs.
- Led a team of developers and contractors, ensuring efficient resource allocation and on-time project delivery.
- Implemented resilient AWS-based infrastructure for client-facing systems, achieving a **70% cost reduction** through optimization of cloud services. Created disaster remediation and recovery protocols.
- Championed the adoption of new processes, including version control and documentation standards, significantly improving team efficiency and reducing error costs.
- Expanded service offerings to include data analytics using Power BI, adding new revenue streams for the department.

Key Achievements:

- Promoted from Developer to Digital Solutions Architect and grew the team from 1 to 3 full-time positions + contractors.
- Delivered high-impact projects that streamlined client operations and contributed to long-term success.

Education

Technical Certifications

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional (in-progress)
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate (2019-2028)
- AWS Certified SysOps Administrator – Associate (2019-2023)

College

- Purdue University North Central - Psychology

Technical Skills

- **Languages:** Python, JavaScript / Typescript, Go, PowerShell, PHP, HTML/CSS, SQL
- **AWS Technologies:** EC2, S3, Lambda, RDS, VPC, API Gateway, CloudWatch, EventBridge, DynamoDB, IAM, CloudFormation, ECS / EKS (Fargate / Kubernetes), SNS, SQS, etc.
- **DevOps CI/CD:** Jenkins, GitLab, Azure DevOps, OpenTofu / Terraform, Docker, Ansible
- **Database:** MySQL, ElastiCache, Redis
- **Tools:** Splunk, SolarWinds, DataDog, Asana, Power BI
- **Regulatory:** Security (NIST / PCI), Medical (HIPAA, FDA, DDMAC, PhRMA)

Core Competencies

- Leadership & Team Development
- Cloud Architecture & Migration
- Strategic Road Mapping & Product Innovation
- DevOps & CI/CD Automation
- Cross-Functional Collaboration
- Agile Project Management
- Technical Documentation & Process Improvement

For an extended resume of experience and skills, please visit my portfolio site @
michaelhale.info/resume