



ABOUT ME

Senior Cloud Engineer with 5+ years building and operating production cloud platforms on GCP and AWS. I specialize in GitOps delivery with Argo CD, Kargo, and Kyverno, Terraform infrastructure-as-code, and agentic AI infrastructure. Alongside my consulting work I run a self-built, production-grade private cloud serving live applications. My background spans two decades of high-reliability technical work, from USAF nuclear-missile systems to live-event engineering, before self-teaching into cloud.

CORE TECHNOLOGIES

GITOPS & DELIVERY

Argo CD (ApplicationSets, app-of-apps), Kargo, Crossplane, Helm

KUBERNETES

GKE, K3s, Kyverno, cert-manager, CloudNativePG

IAC & CI/CD

Terraform, GitHub Actions (WIF), Cloud Build, Jenkins

CLOUD

GCP (GKE, Cloud SQL, Shared VPC, Cloud Armor, SCC), AWS (RDS, Aurora, IAM Identity Center)

AGENTIC AI

Model Context Protocol (MCP), Claude, RAG, Qdrant

IDENTITY / SECURITY

Authentik & Keycloak (OIDC/SAML/SCIM), External Secrets Operator + Google Secret Manager, Sealed Secrets, CIS, policy-as-code

JOHN THOMPSON

SENIOR CLOUD ENGINEER

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SUMMARY

Senior cloud and platform engineer with 5 years at an enterprise consultancy, backed by a self-built, production-grade private cloud. Deep in Argo CD GitOps, Kargo progressive delivery, Kyverno policy-as-code, and Terraform IaC across GCP and AWS, with growing depth in agentic AI infrastructure. I design platforms that deploy themselves from Git, enforce security by policy, and automate their own operations.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cloud / Platform Engineer | Tensure Consulting

2021 - Present

Progressed Jr. DevOps → Associate → Mid-Level → Senior Cloud Engineer

- **Operate an Argo CD GitOps control plane** for a production GKE cluster: ApplicationSets + app-of-apps managing 30+ addons across environments, hierarchical Helm value overlays, automated sync and self-heal; adapted the open-source GitOps-bridge pattern from AWS/EKS to GKE.
- **Automated progressive delivery and dependency management with Kargo** (Warehouse → Stage → Promotion chart pipelines), continuously promoting platform components and applications through environments.
- **Authored policy-as-code with Kyverno** (validation, mutation, and generation): security baselines, auto-injected security contexts, and auto-generated LimitRange + default NetworkPolicy per namespace.
- **Built and maintain a Terraform IaC monorepo on GCP** (20+ project stacks) and delivered an enterprise Secure Landing Zone for a private-equity client: Shared VPC, Cloud NAT, Cloud Armor, CIS org policies, Security Command Center, and Cloud Build / GitHub Actions CI with keyless Workload Identity Federation.
- **Enabled self-service infrastructure with Crossplane**, letting developers request GCP resources through the Kubernetes API.
- **Centralized identity with Authentik and Keycloak on GKE**, integrating AWS IAM Identity Center via SAML + SCIM; managed platform secrets with External Secrets Operator backed by Google Secret Manager.
- **Hardened an enterprise AWS DBaaS secrets-rotation platform** across RDS and Aurora (5 engines) with engine-aware routing, and authored Terraform native (.tftest.hcl) test suites.

INDEPENDENT / PORTFOLIO PLATFORM ENGINEERING

Founder & Platform Engineer | Fortified Freedom Network & Freedom Automations

Ongoing

- **Operate a fully GitOps-managed Argo CD platform** (app-of-apps, HA Redis-Sentinel, PostSync deploy hooks, Sealed Secrets) on a self-built 8-node Proxmox / Ceph private cloud with an HA K3s cluster (3 control-plane w/ embedded etcd HA + 5 workers), all live-migratable.
- **Led an HA hardening program taking 19 single-points-of-failure to 0**, validated by a live cold-drain failover test with 8/8 customer endpoints staying 200 OK.
- **Built a multi-tenant Kubernetes platform** via a reusable Helm chart (queue-mode n8n, CloudNativePG HA, cache, quotas, NetworkPolicy) with content-hash-triggered Argo CD auto-deploy and a custom image achieving 97% PDF compression.
- **Standardized production Postgres on CloudNativePG** (6-8 HA clusters, streaming replication) with per-tenant barman-cloud backups to self-hosted MinIO (S3) and point-in-time recovery.

JOHN THOMPSON

SENIOR CLOUD ENGINEER

HIGHLIGHTS

- Delivered an enterprise GCP Secure Landing Zone for a private-equity client
- Argo CD GitOps platform managing 30+ addons on production GKE
- Kargo progressive delivery and Kyverno policy-as-code across environments
- Integrated AWS IAM Identity Center via SAML + SCIM
- Portfolio: took a critical platform tier from 19 SPOFs to 0, live-failover validated

REFERENCES

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PORTFOLIO PLATFORM ENGINEERING *(continued)*

- **Built agentic AI infrastructure:** Model Context Protocol (MCP) servers exposing Kubernetes / Argo CD, GitHub, and Slack ops as LLM-callable tools; a Claude-driven daily platform-audit pipeline; and RAG pipelines over private corpora (Qdrant).
- **In progress:** developing in-cluster agentic operators, LLM-driven Kubernetes controllers for log monitoring, error mediation, and automated self-healing.
- **Architected a safety-critical AI SaaS** (FastAPI / Next.js on K3s) integrating Twilio, Claude, Whisper, and Stripe; scaled it by migrating shared storage from RWO to RWX CephFS.
- **Reliability engineering:** root-caused and fixed etcd fsync latency (ZFS SLOG), a 413-restart disk-saturation spiral, and a 10.2 GB corosync leak; run full Prometheus / Loki / Grafana observability plus a 19-collector daily audit.

SELECTED PROJECTS

DriveForge (open-source, MIT) · Python / FastAPI appliance automating NIST 800-88 secure erase across a multi-node fleet; dual-ISO GitHub Actions release pipeline with 793 unit tests and real-hardware integration.

FFN Case Analyzer · RAG document-analysis service (FastAPI, Qdrant, Claude + OpenAI embeddings) for pattern detection over private corpora.

Kirk · Fully local AI voice assistant and RAG knowledge base (Whisper, Ollama, Qdrant, ElevenLabs) packaged as a macOS service.

EARLIER CAREER

U.S. Air Force · ICBM / Minuteman III Nuclear Missile Technician **(2000 - 2004)**. Led a 4-person team on classified Minuteman III maintenance; formerly held a DoD Top Secret clearance (inactive).

Live-Event AV & Broadcast · 15+ years of systems design and engineering (up to Technical Director) before self-teaching into cloud.

EDUCATION & SKILLSETS

Additional skills: Linux, Bash, TypeScript, Go, SQL, Prometheus / Grafana / Loki, Proxmox VE, Ceph, ZFS, Cloudflare, Docker / containerd, Renovate, MinIO / S3.

Education / certifications: [to confirm]