

SYED AMJAD ALI

DevOps Engineer | Cloud & Security Automation (DevSecOps)

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

DevOps / DevSecOps Engineer with 4+ years of experience designing, automating, and securing scalable cloud and on-prem Linux infrastructure across **AWS and Azure**. Specialized in security-focused automation — firewall governance, server hardening, DDoS and brute-force mitigation — combined with strong **Infrastructure-as-Code** (Terraform, Ansible), **containerization & orchestration** (Docker, Kubernetes, Helm), and CI/CD delivery. Currently leading the design of a centralized Firewall Automation & Governance platform that cut large-scale deployment time by **3x**. Also builds internal tooling and AI-integrated backend services in Python/FastAPI — bringing a developer's mindset to operations — and hardens existing production platforms through root-cause incident diagnosis and fail-loud deployment tooling. Transitioned into DevOps through hands-on delivery and structured upskilling (Google IT Automation, DevOps & Cybersecurity certifications).

CORE SKILLS & TECHNOLOGIES

Cloud Platforms	AWS (EC2, Lambda, S3, VPC, EKS, CloudWatch, IAM, CloudTrail, MGN), Azure (VMs, Functions, Blob, AKS, DevOps, Site Recovery), Alibaba Cloud (ECS, OSS)
IaC & Config Mgmt	Terraform, Ansible (roles, playbooks, inventories)
Containers / Orchestration	Docker, Docker Compose & Swarm, Kubernetes, Helm, Kustomize, EKS / AKS
CI/CD & GitOps	Jenkins, GitLab CI, GitHub Actions, Tekton, ArgoCD, Git / GitHub / GitLab
Security (DevSecOps)	IPTables / IPSets firewall automation, server hardening (SSH / CIS), DDoS mitigation, brute-force protection (fail2ban), WAF (Cloudflare, AWS WAF & Shield), SSL/TLS, ACME / Let's Encrypt (certbot) & certificate lifecycle, IP filtering, SPF / DNS
Monitoring & Logging	Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Zabbix, Alertmanager
Databases	MySQL (backup / restore, replication), PostgreSQL
Networking & Secrets	Load balancing (ALB / NLB, Nginx / HAProxy), reverse proxy, BIND / authoritative DNS & zone management, VPC, TCP/IP, subnetting; HashiCorp Vault, AWS Secrets Manager
Programming & Backend	Python, TypeScript, Bash; Flask, FastAPI
AI Integration	OpenAI, Hugging Face, Gemini, Groq; Streamlit, Gradio
Practices	High Availability, Disaster Recovery, Incident Response, RCA, MTTR reduction

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

DevOps / DevSecOps Engineer — Curve Digital Solutions Pvt Ltd	Jan 2026 – Present
- Designed and implemented a centralized Firewall Automation & Governance platform managing IPTables/IPSets rules across large-scale Linux infrastructure via a database-driven orchestrator/collector architecture, with automated server onboarding through Ansible provisioning. - Migrated dynamic access control to an IPSet-driven design, cutting per-server deployment from ~16s to ~4–5s and reducing large-scale deployment time by 3x. - Built multi-layer safe-deployment controls (automatic firewall backups, iptables-restore validation, rollback protection, post-apply verification) to prevent server lockouts and improve change reliability. - Hardened the managed Linux fleet with default-deny firewall policies, SSH hardening, brute-force protection, and DDoS mitigation, reducing exposure to unauthorized access. - Diagnosed and resolved a fleet-wide API outage across 7 of 8 production mail nodes — tracing opaque “Database error” responses to a provisioning script that created SQLite databases root-owned and unreadable by the web-server user — then rebuilt provisioning to correct ownership, preserve existing data, and verify readability at install time. - Hardened four internal node-template platforms (SSL/Let's Encrypt, Nginx, DNS, and mail managers): standardized Python runtime resolution via install-time templating, fixed a self-reinforcing Let's Encrypt renewal-config failure loop, added DNS/CNAME zone validation (13 test scenarios), and introduced SHA-256-verified deployments with install-time smoke tests so failures surface at install rather than in production. - Built and shipped to production a queue-driven Proxy Checker validating connectivity, authentication, and speed across 7,000+ proxy servers on a mixed Linux/Windows fleet (Nginx + PHP and FastAPI), reaching ~100 checks/minute with capped concurrency and fixing a failure-path bug that had masked real proxy errors. - Developed a SOC Configuration Inventory platform (distributed orchestrator/collector) to normalize hardware, OS, network, and storage data, powering UI-driven analytics and automated server scoring.	

- Built an **SMTP Network Intelligence platform** optimizing email delivery via MX route analysis (DNS latency, TCP/STARTTLS/TLS benchmarking), surfacing latency variance (sub-100ms vs 500ms+) to drive intelligent MX selection.

DevOps Engineer – IT-Impex Pvt Ltd

Jun 2024 – Dec 2025

- Built and maintained CI/CD pipelines (Jenkins, GitLab CI), reducing deployment time and manual intervention.
- Containerized applications with Docker and deployed microservices across dev/staging/prod on Kubernetes clusters.
- Configured Prometheus + Grafana monitoring for real-time metrics, alerting, and dashboards, improving incident detection.
- Supported AWS (EC2, S3, CloudWatch) and Alibaba Cloud provisioning, maintaining high availability of cloud systems.
- Managed GitLab repositories, merge requests, and branching strategies across teams.

DevOps Engineer – iTechNets Pvt Ltd

Jun 2023 – Jun 2024

- Automated infrastructure provisioning with Terraform (IaC) and reduced manual configuration time by **60%** via reusable Ansible playbooks.
- Designed CI/CD pipelines (Jenkins, GitLab CI, Tekton) enabling zero-downtime deployments.
- Built and deployed Kubernetes clusters on bare-metal and cloud; managed workloads with Helm and Kustomize.
- Implemented Prometheus + Grafana monitoring for proactive issue detection and resource optimization.
- Led an **AWS→Azure migration & DR project** using AWS MGN and Azure Site Recovery (ASR) with minimal downtime — demonstrating High Availability and Disaster Recovery practice.

Freelance DevOps / Version Control – Contract Project Team

2021 – 2022

- Owned Git-based version control and branching workflows for a live client project, and worked hands-on with AWS and Linux administration — the start of my DevOps journey, alongside my concurrent role at the time.

Earlier Experience *(non-technical roles during the transition)*

- **Computer Science Teacher** – Usman Public School System (2016–2021): Taught O-level/secondary computer science, programming, and IT fundamentals.
- **Audit Associate** – Qadeer Mehdi & Co (2021–2023): Financial reporting, data analysis, and reconciliation while transitioning into IT through self-directed DevOps & cloud upskilling.

KEY PROJECTS

Secure High-Availability Web Platform – Database, WAF & Load Balancing

- Deployed a load-balanced application (Nginx / ALB) across multiple backend instances for high availability and fault tolerance.
- Configured **MySQL primary–replica replication** with automated backups and tested restore for disaster recovery.
- Fronted the app with **WAF** (Cloudflare / AWS WAF), SSL/TLS, rate-limiting, IP filtering, and geo-restriction; added fail2ban, SSH hardening, and default-deny firewall to mitigate brute-force and DDoS attacks.

GitOps & Full-Stack Observability on Kubernetes

- Implemented GitOps delivery with **ArgoCD** for automated, auditable, self-healing Kubernetes deployments (Helm / Kustomize).
- Built end-to-end observability with **Prometheus, Grafana, Loki (logs), and Zabbix**, with Alertmanager alerting to reduce incident detection time.
- Managed sensitive configuration and credentials with **HashiCorp Vault / AWS Secrets Manager**.

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

B.S in Computer Science – UBIT, University of Karachi (2012–2016)

AWS Solutions Architect – Associate (in progress, expected Nov 2026) • ACCA (Skills Module) & B.Com – University of Karachi

Certifications: Google Cybersecurity • Google IT Automation with Python (Professional) • DevOps Master Course (iTechNets) • Generative AI Application Developer – PakAngels (Silicon Valley, CA) • Prompt Design in Vertex AI (Google) • Google Agile Essentials