

DAVE VASEGH

Cloud Platforms and Governance Leader | AWS | DevSecOps | FinOps | Secure Government Cloud

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PROFILE

Cloud platforms and technology governance leader with significant experience across AWS platforms, federated authentication, DevSecOps, research platforms, scientific computing environments, FinOps and technical leadership. Proven ability to deliver secure, scalable and cost-optimised government cloud platforms that enable research, enterprise operations and large-scale business outcomes.

Currently leading governance initiatives, platform reliability, cost optimisation and DevSecOps maturity across a 160+ account AWS Organisation, supporting national scientific and government services. Known for shifting cloud services from account-level administration toward reusable platform capabilities, helping research and business teams focus on outcomes rather than infrastructure complexity.

I bring:

- Leadership in evolving cloud services from account-level administration toward reusable platform capabilities, including standardised, secure and scalable foundations that reduce operational cost, complexity and delivery overhead for science teams.
- Team management through incident, problem and change management while fostering practical knowledge sharing, accountability and service continuity.
- Deep AWS platform expertise with a cross-cloud governance mindset, building organisational cloud capability through improved observability, automation, service maturity uplift and operational resilience across complex platforms.
- Strong alignment with secure-by-design principles, cyber security expectations and government operating environments.
- Clearly translates technical, security and financial information for executive, finance, cyber security, delivery and technical audiences, enabling senior stakeholders to make informed decisions and align platform investment with business and research outcomes.
- Proven ability to improve FinOps maturity, operational reliability and platform visibility.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

- Led governance and optimisation initiatives across a 160+ account AWS environment, improving platform maturity, financial governance and operational confidence.
- Acted as Cloud Platforms Team Manager for six months, coordinating engineers, workload priorities, stakeholder communication and continuity of platform services during leadership transition.
- Delivered measurable cost-saving outcomes totalling approximately US\$320K in annualised savings across AWS Savings Plans, application licensing and resource consolidation and rightsizing.
- Resolved 5000+ critical and high severity AWS Inspector findings across GIS accounts by designing and deploying automated patching pipelines, eliminating the need for manual triage at scale and establishing a repeatable patching model embedded in delivery workflows.
- Proactively identified gaps in platform observability, access visibility and lifecycle governance, then initiated and developed API-driven dynamic reporting workflows across AWS, Bitbucket, GitHub to improve security awareness, ownership clarity and platform risk management.
- Designed and operated secure, resilient cloud-hosted geospatial platforms supporting national-scale scientific and enterprise services.

KEY STRENGTHS

Leadership and Stakeholder Management:

Team leadership and coordination, vendor engagement, executive communication, cyber security collaboration, documentation, standards and procedures

Enterprise Cloud Strategy and Governance:

AWS enterprise governance, Landing Zone, OUs, SCPs/RCPs, guardrails and service maturity uplift

FinOps and Commercial Governance:

Cost Explorer, QuickSight, chargeback model advocacy, centralised Savings Plans, cost allocation and executive reporting

Operations & Reliability:

Incident/problem/change management, CloudWatch, observability, HA architecture, autoscaling and service restoration

Delivery & Operations:

Agile delivery, Atlassian toolchain, risk management, documentation and standards

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Cloud Technical Lead / Cloud Platforms | Geoscience Australia | Feb 2025 - Present

This role focuses on cloud platform governance, DevSecOps maturity, operational reliability, automation, observability, cost optimisation and cloud advisory across a large AWS estate. I support business, research and technical teams to improve system security, reliability and cost efficiency by adopting cloud-native services, Well-Architected principles and reusable platform patterns.

- Initiated and influenced infrastructure improvement workflows through proactive engagement with directors, business owners and technical custodians, aligning platform uplift with risk, reliability, cost and business priorities.
- Designed AWS Landing Zone architecture, including Organisational Units, Service Control Policies, and Resource Control Policies to support more consistent cloud governance.
- Contributed to the development of a platform-oriented cloud operation model by promoting reusable, secure and scalable cloud foundations, enabling research groups to consume governed cloud services with less overhead in architecture, security and operational design.
- Applied a Retire / Redesign / Replatform migration framework to rationalise the legacy GIS service estate, reducing scope, technical debt and cost before migration rather than after.
- Progressed a customer platform from ad-hoc query troubleshooting to a Well-Architected review, establishing a structured improvement pathway and defensible architecture with stronger security controls and simplified data management across a 350+ TB platform.
- Improved visibility of cloud cost growth by implementing a centralised QuickSight cost monitoring platform and advocating a chargeback model to strengthen financial accountability and cloud consumption governance.
- Provided technical escalation and support to internal customers, aligning platform capabilities with business, research and operational requirements.
- Developed and maintained IaC-based pipelines to automate resource provisioning and application deployment, enforce consistency and reduce manual operational risk.
- Developed API-driven reporting, governance and audit workflows across Bitbucket and GitHub, improving visibility of users, repositories, permissions, access level and platform lifecycle risks.
- Engaged with cloud service providers, application vendors and internal stakeholders to assess platform options, service impacts, roadmap considerations and operational risks.

Acting Cloud Platforms Team Manager | Geoscience Australia | Six-month acting assignment

In this role I provided day-to-day management for the Cloud Platforms team, balancing operational delivery, service continuity, workload prioritisation, stakeholder communication, coaching and team support during a period of leadership transition.

- Reduced annual AWS OpEx by US\$180K (10%) through well-optimised and consolidated organisation-level Compute Savings Plans.
- Provided leadership and direction to five engineers across incident, change, problem management and BAU activities, ensuring continuity of critical cloud platform services.
- Facilitated team stand-ups, supported PDP and career planning discussions, and coached team members to maintain delivery momentum, accountability and service quality.
- Prioritised team workloads across operational support, project delivery, backlog management, governance uplift and remediation activities.
- Engaged senior stakeholders including directors and branch heads on cloud governance posture, risk exposure, cost considerations and remediation priorities.

GIS Cloud Engineer | Geoscience Australia | Feb 2023 - Feb 2025

Designed, managed and optimised AWS cloud-native geospatial infrastructure supporting national geospatial services, improving resilience, automation, security and cost efficiency.

- Reduced annual operating costs from ~\$135K to ~\$68K (~50%) and application licensing costs by US\$60K annually (65%) through infrastructure modernisation, service consolidation and rightsizing.
- Assessed infrastructure against ISM controls and PSPF considerations, identifying gaps and driving remediation activities with relevant stakeholders.
- Redesigned and deployed highly available AWS infrastructure supporting enterprise GIS workloads across 90+ virtual machines, multiple databases, reverse proxy services and firewall-controlled access patterns, with the redesigned platform handling twice the traffic volume.
- Improved the efficiency and security of a GIS platform through implementation of security tooling (WAF, HTTPS enforcement, Systems Manager replacing SSH), Terraform modularisation and caching redesign from file-based to PostgreSQL-backed.
- Managed AWS core services including EC2, VPC, IAM, S3, RDS, Route 53, ALB, CloudWatch, SNS, Grafana, Inspector and Auto Scaling to support reliable, scalable and secure governance operations.
- Resolved 5000+ critical and high severity AWS Inspector findings by designing automated patching pipelines to update OS packages, runtime components and container base images at scale — converting a manual triage problem into a repeatable delivery workflow.
- Identified silent auto-scaling failures, corrected pipeline logic gaps and implemented preventive automation, restoring full platform capacity.
- Automated infrastructure provisioning and operational activities using Terraform, Packer, Docker, Python and shell scripting, improving deployment consistency, repeatability and delivery speed.
- Migrated legacy mission-critical on-premises services to modern cloud-hosted infrastructure, improving service sustainability, operational efficiency and security posture.
- Collaborated with cross-functional application, cyber security and platform teams to align infrastructure patterns with application and service requirements.

Technical Lead | Argon Facility, Australian National University | Mar 2012 - Feb 2023

Led ICT systems and technical operations for a nationally significant research facility, supporting scientific instrumentation, data systems, reporting, research workflows and GCP-supported services.

- Managed end-to-end research facility operations, including service design, networking, data systems, vendor management and support for critical scientific operations.
- Utilised Google Earth Engine to support national-scale visualisation of geochronology research across Australia, contributing to the National Argon Map (NAM) collaboration between ANU Argon Facility, Geoscience Australia and AuScope.
- Recognised as a co-author on several peer-reviewed research papers due to substantial technical contribution to research workflows, data quality, analytical methods and reliable delivery of scientific outcomes, with some outputs supporting successful grant applications.
- Improved availability, operational reliability and performance of research facility through automation, system improvements and disciplined operational practices.
- Delivered operational and performance reporting to the Facility Director, academic leadership and research stakeholders, helping connect technical operations with research priorities, funding decisions and service outcomes.
- Contributed to revenue growth from approximately \$180K to \$660K over the period through improved operational efficiency, system optimisation, outcome quality and expanded technical service capability.

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGIES

Cloud Platforms:

AWS EC2, S3, RDS, Lambda, VPC, IAM, Route 53, WAF, ALB/ELB, Auto Scaling, CloudFront, Fargate, SNS; Azure Entra ID (Active Directory) and federated user authentication; Google Earth Engine

Governance, Security and Compliance:

AWS Organizations, IAM Identity Centre, CloudTrail, Config, GuardDuty, Trusted Advisor, Inspector, least privilege access, ISM, Essential Eight, secure-by-design principles

Automation, DevSecOps and Delivery:

Terraform, CloudFormation, Packer, Docker, GitHub Actions, Bitbucket Pipelines, Git, Python, Bash, PowerShell, API automation, Atlassian toolchain

Monitoring and Analytics:

CloudWatch, CloudTrail, Config, Inspector, Athena, Grafana, SNS, custom metrics, centralised monitoring systems

Data, GIS and Scientific Platforms:

ArcGIS Enterprise, GeoServer, QGIS Server, PostgreSQL/PostGIS, FME, SQL APIs, geospatial data services, scientific computing environments

QUALIFICATIONS

Bachelor of Science (Physics)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- CompTIA Security+, 2025
- AWS Solutions Architect Training, 2024
- Agile Project Management - RMIT, 2023