

SYED WAJIH

Staff DevOps Engineer | Lead Platform Engineer | Cloud & Kubernetes Architect

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Portfolio & Architecture Case Studies: syedwajih.com (delivery systems, observability, AI-ready infrastructure blueprints)

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Staff DevOps Engineer and hands-on Platform Engineering Leader with **8+ years** of experience designing, modernizing, securing, and operating cloud-native infrastructure across **GCP, AWS, OCI, and Azure**. Strong fit for senior platform, DevOps leadership, cloud architecture, SRE, DevSecOps, and infrastructure modernization roles. Proven track record in **cost optimization (45% reductions)**, **incident reduction (97%)**, compliance achievements (**SOC 2, ISO 27001, PCI-DSS**), and enabling business milestones including Series A funding. Excel in mentorship, cross-functional leadership, and aligning infrastructure with product roadmaps to achieve 99.999% SLAs.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Led and mentored DevOps and platform engineering teams of 5–15 engineers while remaining hands-on across architecture, delivery, troubleshooting, and production readiness.
- ▶ Operated and modernized large-scale cloud-native platforms spanning 400+ services at Unifonic and 500+ microservices at StrikeReady.
- ▶ Reduced cloud spend by up to 45%, cut logging costs by 30% at 3TB+/day scale, and reduced recurring infrastructure incidents by 97%.
- ▶ Recovered a stalled infrastructure modernization program and delivered it in 3 months after 8+ months of delay through cross-functional leadership.
- ▶ Built audit-ready platform controls across Vault, RBAC, SAST/DAST, PCI-DSS, SOC 2, and ISO 27001 — contributing to \$10M+ funding rounds.
- ▶ Standardized CI/CD pipelines with reusable GitHub Actions workflows, reducing release cycle times by 25%.

CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS

Leadership & Architecture: Platform strategy, DevOps leadership, People management, Architecture ownership, Roadmap planning, Stakeholder management, Delivery governance, Engineering standards

Cloud & Kubernetes: GCP, GKE, AWS, EKS, OCI, OKE, Azure, AKS, OpenShift, RKE2, Kubernetes, Docker, Multi-cloud architecture, High availability

laC & Automation: Terraform, Ansible, Python, Bash, Modular IaC, Environment standardization, Configuration management, Cloud provisioning

CI/CD & GitOps: Argo CD, Helm, GitOps, GitHub Actions, Bitbucket Pipelines, Drone CI, Jenkins, Reusable workflows, Self-hosted runners, Deployment governance

SRE & Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, OpenSearch, ELK Stack, Alerting, Incident management, SLO/SLA practices, Logging architecture, Cost optimization

Security & Compliance: HashiCorp Vault, OKTA, IAM, RBAC, SAST/DAST, PCI-DSS, SOC 2, ISO 27001, Backup/restore, Disaster recovery, Failover readiness

Platform Engineering: Developer experience (DevX), Gateway API, Istio, Service mesh, Ingress modernization, AIOps foundations, MLOps infrastructure, AI-ready platforms

Data & Messaging: PostgreSQL, MongoDB, Redis, RabbitMQ, Kafka, Neo4j, Elasticsearch, OpenSearch

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Unifonic — **Staff DevOps Engineer | Lead Platform Engineer** Oct 2024 – Present | Pakistan (Saudi HQ)

- Lead platform engineering and DevOps across 400+ services, multiple Kubernetes clusters, and dev, pre-prod, and production environments — covering CI/CD modernization, GitOps, observability, DR, DevX, and security controls.
- Manage and mentor a 7-member DevOps team supporting multiple product squads, improving platform standards, release reliability, incident ownership, and engineering execution across cloud-native services.
- Modernize release engineering from Drone CI to Bitbucket Pipelines, GitHub Actions, and Argo CD GitOps — standardizing reusable Helm charts and self-hosted runner models, cutting release cycle times by 25%.

- Lead AWS-to-OCI migration and disaster recovery workstreams including ECR-to-OCIR registry resilience, multi-region continuity, backup/restore strategy, and production cutover readiness.
- Drive observability transformation from OpenSearch toward Loki while strengthening Prometheus, Grafana, and alerting architecture — achieving 30% logging cost reduction at 3TB+/day scale.
- Lead Gateway API and Istio traffic modernization to create a controlled migration path from ingress-based routing toward service mesh capabilities without destabilizing production workloads.
- Integrate acquired products and automation-heavy workloads into standard platform patterns covering Kubernetes deployments, secrets management, release governance, and operational controls.

Small World Financial Services — Technology Architect Jan 2024 – Sep 2024 | Remote

- Directed a 15-member cross-functional team (DevOps, security, networking, IT, development, QA) to recover and deliver a stalled infrastructure modernization program in 3 months after 8+ months of delays.
- Revamped microservices infrastructure and DevOps processes across AWS and GCP, improving scalability, resilience, delivery speed, and operational confidence across the organization.
- Rebuilt infrastructure foundations on OpenStack, OpenShift, and RKE2 with disaster recovery, platform consistency, security controls, and compliance-oriented architecture from the design stage.
- Championed GitOps adoption, Vault-backed secrets management, Kubernetes RBAC, CI/CD improvements, and security-first delivery practices — validated through DR simulations and failover SLA testing.

Technogenics / StrikeReady — Lead DevOps Engineer Oct 2021 – Dec 2023 | Pakistan (Engineering Arm of StrikeReady)

- Led a DevOps department of 9 engineers and owned infrastructure strategy for a global SaaS security platform supporting 500+ microservices.
- Revamped legacy infrastructure into a GCP + OCI hybrid operating model, reducing cloud spend by up to 45% through tagging, monitoring, rightsizing, and platform-efficiency improvements.
- Rebuilt alerting systems and operational standards, eliminating 97% of recurring infrastructure incidents and delivering modular Terraform/Helm stacks for repeatable multi-environment deployments.
- Implemented Vault-backed security controls, dynamic secrets management, Kubernetes RBAC, and compliance-oriented controls supporting SOC 2 and ISO 27001 readiness.
- Implemented Istio service mesh for secure, controlled service-to-service communication across Kubernetes workloads.
- Mentored engineers, conducted performance reviews, guided architecture decisions, and contributed to Series A funding readiness by improving platform scalability, reliability, and compliance posture.

PostEx — DevOps Engineer Dec 2020 – Sep 2021 | Pakistan

- Stabilized Jenkins and Docker CI/CD pipelines, reducing build failures and improving release reliability — supporting a \$10M funding round through demonstrated platform scalability.
- Deployed PCI-DSS-oriented AWS infrastructure and internal monitoring and rollback tooling to improve operational control and incident response for application teams.
- Built automation to monitor container failures, detect rollback candidates faster, and reduce mean time to recovery for production incidents.

UDAV — Associate DevOps Engineer Jun 2019 – Nov 2020 | Pakistan

- Supported ELK logging, early Kubernetes setups, CI pipelines, on-call rotations, incident response, and production stability workflows as part of a fast-paced infrastructure team.

EDUCATION

BS Computer Science — COMSATS Lahore | 2020