

SUIUNBEK ISAEV

Principal Infrastructure Engineer

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PROFILE SUMMARY

Principal Infrastructure Engineer with 18+ years of IT experience, including 11+ years in Linux, DevOps, platform engineering, and AWS cloud infrastructure within highly regulated financial environments. Proven leader in enterprise automation, Infrastructure as Code, cloud modernization, Ansible Automation Platform, Terraform Enterprise, OpenShift, CI/CD, and security remediation. Trusted technical lead responsible for Development, Production, and Restricted Production platforms, mentoring engineers, reviewing architecture, and delivering scalable, secure cloud solutions.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cloud Platforms: AWS (EC2, S3, Lambda, VPC, ALB, Route53, CloudWatch, SNS, SQS, Secrets Manager, Security Groups, IAM, RDS PostgreSQL)

Automation Platforms: Ansible, Ansible Automation Platform (Gateway, Controller, Database tier)

Infrastructure as Code: Terraform, Terraform Enterprise, Packer

Containers / PaaS: Docker, Kubernetes, OpenShift

CI/CD: Jenkins, Git, GitHub

Identity & Security: SAML, Okta SSO, IAM, CTR/VIT remediation, security hardening

Monitoring & Workflow: CloudWatch, Datadog, Airflow, ServiceNow, Nagios

Operating Systems: Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL 8/9), CentOS, Ubuntu, Windows

Scripting: Python, Bash

Big Data / Analytics: Amazon EMR

Project & Version Control: Jira, Git, GitHub

WORK EXPERIENCE

Principal Infrastructure Engineer — *Capital One (formerly Discover Financial Services)* May 2025 – Present

- Led the end-to-end AAP upgrade from version 2.4 to 2.6 across multiple AWS accounts, first migrating the underlying OS from RHEL8 to RHEL9 and then performing the platform upgrade; identified and resolved numerous technical issues along the way to deliver a seamless migration with no business interruption, including PostgreSQL database integration, SAML mapping, and production cutover.
- Designed and built a Jenkins pipeline for EMR cluster re-hydration used by multiple teams across multiple AWS accounts; created custom AWS AMIs with Packer containing all required packages, then provisioned the EMR clusters via Terraform Enterprise, fully integrating Jenkins, TFE, and Packer so users can self-service by selecting EMR version, environment, and other build variables.
- Led a security remediation project to change how AAP service accounts connect to servers — moving away from direct root SSH key access to align with company security standards — updating hundreds of AAP job templates and playbooks with zero impact to the business.
- Built AWS cost-optimization automation that identifies idle EC2 instances and notifies application teams via tag-based email alerts to delete or downsize instances, delivering approximately \$500K in annual savings.
- Drive ongoing CTR/VIT remediation and ongoing platform security improvements.
- Continuously create, update, delete, and enhance AWS services to support evolving platform and application needs.
- Participate in on-call rotation, resolving issues across AWS accounts, AAP, Terraform, and stakeholder and internal team applications.

Cloud Infrastructure Engineer — *Discover Financial Services*

Oct 2020 – May 2025

- Developed and maintained Infrastructure as Code (IaC) using Terraform and Terraform Enterprise.

- Containerized applications using Docker and managed orchestration with Kubernetes and OpenShift.
- Implemented CI/CD pipelines using Jenkins, Git, Ansible, and Ansible Automation Platform to ensure smooth application delivery.
- Monitored and troubleshot cloud infrastructure using CloudWatch, Datadog, and other logging tools.
- Automated workflows and scheduled tasks using Apache Airflow.
- Collaborated with development and operations teams to ensure seamless deployment of new features and updates.
- Managed incident resolution and service requests via ServiceNow and Jira.
- Conducted regular performance testing, cost optimization, and security audits of cloud environments.
- Designed and implemented secure, fault-tolerant AWS architectures tailored to fintech applications.
- Automated repetitive tasks using Python and Bash scripting, reducing manual effort and error rates.
- Migrated legacy systems to AWS, ensuring zero downtime and enhanced reliability.

DevOps Engineer — *Velo Payments*

Mar 2020 – Oct 2020

- Deployed infrastructure using Git, Terraform, and Ansible on the AWS platform; managed storage, monitoring, and deployment automation while continually enhancing DevOps tools, processes, and procedures.
- Maintained uptime and quick turnaround of deployments through development and optimization of infrastructure, servers, and deployment strategies.
- Automated deployment of applications, system configurations, and security settings in an AWS cloud-based environment, including integrations, updates, and fixes; set up and managed Linux servers on AWS using EC2, EBS, Security Groups, VPC, IAM, S3, ELB, and Route53.
- Improved customer experience by building, deploying, and scaling applications on virtual infrastructure, swiftly investigating and resolving technical issues.
- Developed automation and deployment utilities using Bash and Python, including scripts for Prometheus custom checks.
- Implemented Docker across QA, integration, and production environments, working on Docker images and containers.
- Collaborated with developers to enhance stability and scalability while prioritizing requests from operations, development, and product teams.
- Worked with developers to ensure new environments met their requirements and conformed to industry-standard best practices.

Platform Engineer (PaaS) — *IPsoft*

Aug 2017 – Jan 2020

- Responsible for ensuring maximum uptime and performance of the PaaS offering — IPcenter Platform.
- Performed incident management by picking up monitoring alerts, investigating, and resolving or escalating as needed.
- Resolved tickets received via ticketing system, email, and phone within SLA timeframes.
- Modified and created effective monitoring measures as needed for the platform.
- Performed problem management to resolve long-term issues with the function, performance, or availability of the platform.
- Identified and escalated bugs found in platform applications to the service and R&D teams.
- Developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for maintaining the platform and responding to alerts and incidents, then automated those SOPs to remediate Linux and Windows tasks without human intervention.
- Created Bash and Python scripts to perform daily tasks and used cron to automate them.
- Set up log rotation using logrotate for Linux systems to rotate, copy-truncate, and compress logs.
- Patched Linux systems and platform-specific applications.
- Supported Nagios servers and in-house Nagios engines to ensure effective system monitoring.
- Investigated and performed root cause analysis on production servers, escalating as needed.

Linux Engineer — *IPsoft*

Mar 2015 – Aug 2017

- Provided support to clients with Linux servers running business applications in a large-scale environment.

- Responded to, tracked, and escalated system incidents across Unix systems.
- Performed system patch deployments and hardware maintenance, including installing and upgrading packages on RHEL, Scientific Linux, and CentOS systems.
- Monitored system performance via sar, vmstat, iostat, netstat, and top.
- Added and monitored Configuration Items (hosts, devices, and more) in Nagios monitoring.
- Automated daily system administration tasks using Bash and Python scripts.
- Created SOPs for Linux issues and automated them using the in-house Automation Designer tool.
- Developed and implemented configuration changes to resolve escalated issues.
- Used NetBackup as an enterprise backup solution, and added, removed, and modified users in NIS per client request.

IT/LAN Engineer — *UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)*

Jun 2008 – Sep 2014

- Responsible for installation, upgrading, configuration, administration, and troubleshooting of hardware, Linux and Windows systems, and network cabling.
- Performed troubleshooting analysis, identified system failures, correlated events to determine points of failure, and provided recommendations.
- Handled tickets, monitoring, troubleshooting, and maintenance to meet client requirements; supported DNS, FTP, SMTP, LDAP, SSH, NFS, TCP, UDP, IP, DHCP, and Active Directory.
- Performed disk management using LVM, including adding storage and increasing/decreasing file systems in RHEL.
- Created new users and groups and set up home directories and access restrictions in Active Directory and NIS domains.

EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, 2000 – 2005

CERTIFICATIONS

- HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate (003)
- AWS Certified DevOps Engineer – Professional
- Google Cloud Certified Associate Cloud Engineer
- Certified Kubernetes Administrator
- AWS Certified Advanced Networking – Specialty
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate
- Red Hat Certified Engineer
- Red Hat Certified System Administrator
- Docker Certified Associate