

Francisco De la Cruz

DevOps / Cloud Engineer · Computer Engineer

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SUMMARY

DevOps / Cloud Engineer — ~4 years, 15+ engagements — building and operating production **Kubernetes** on **AWS, Azure and on-prem** for fintech, insurtech, utilities and regulated/**PCI** workloads: IaC, GitOps, observability, cloud security/SIEM and FinOps. **AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional**. University professor, conference speaker and IaC-catalog maintainer.

I take production Kubernetes platforms from fragile and expensive to boring and cheap — across clouds, on-prem, and the network underneath.

CORE SKILLS

- **Kubernetes & platform:** EKS, EKS Auto Mode, on-prem kubeadm HA (kube-vip, Cilium, vSphere, Longhorn, Harbor), Helm, ArgoCD, Karpenter, Traefik, KEDA
 - **AWS / Azure:** Lambda, API Gateway, RDS/Aurora, OpenSearch, EventBridge/Firehose, MSK, Control Tower, IAM Identity Center / Roles Anywhere, WAF · AKS, Key Vault, App Gateway
 - **IaC & CI/CD:** Terraform + Terragrunt, Atlantis, GitHub Actions (ARC), GitLab CI, Bitbucket Pipelines, GitOps
 - **Observability & security:** Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Mimir, Tempo, Alloy, OpenTelemetry, Datadog · PCI, SIEM on OpenSearch, GuardDuty, Cloudflare Zero Trust
 - **Data & networking:** PostgreSQL, Kafka/MSK, CDC (Debezium), DMS · VPC/VNet, IPsec/WireGuard, egress HA, MikroTik/BGP
 - **Languages/tooling:** Python (boto3), Bash, PHP (legacy); LLM-ops (MCP, Claude API)
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EXPERIENCE

DevOps / Cloud Engineer — Cloud consultancy (AWS Partner)

2022 – present · Córdoba, Argentina (remote) — infrastructure across 15+ client engagements (DevOps squads + end-to-end projects). Clients anonymized by domain.

Fiscal-traceability platform — hybrid AWS + on-prem · Lead infra (2024–present)

- Built a self-managed HA Kubernetes platform on **vSphere** (kubeadm + Cilium + Longhorn + Harbor) running alongside 5 AWS environments; modernized a legacy **CentOS 6 / PHP 5.4** app with containerized CI/CD and centralized logging.
- Engineered **egress-gateway HA on Cilium OSS** with kube-vip + a custom controller (~4–5s failover); slimmed observability (Loki → MinIO, retired Thanos) and hit a ~US\$500/mo dev FinOps target.

Regulated PCI fintechs (2024–2026)

- **5 zero-downtime EKS upgrades (1.28 → 1.32)** + Karpenter; unified **~15 microservices onto one Helm chart** via ArgoCD ApplicationSets.
- Built a **PCI SIEM on Amazon OpenSearch** (after benchmarking Datadog/Wazuh/Elastic) ingesting CloudTrail, GuardDuty, VPC Flow Logs and EKS audit logs; **–40–60% Flow Log volume**.

Multi-cloud utilities SaaS (2025) — extended an AWS/EKS + ArgoCD platform to **Azure**, building the Azure Terraform module catalog from scratch (AKS, App Gateway, Key Vault).

Also: tax-tech (RDS → Aurora + RDS Proxy, OpenTelemetry); insurtech & multi-region wellness apps; govtech e-auctions; data/BI migrations (DMS, MongoDB → DocumentDB).

Leadership & community — Maintainer of the company **Terraform Service Catalog**; self-hosted **GitHub Actions ARC** on EKS; led a production-outage post-mortem. **Nerdearla 2025** speaker; trainee-program mentor; client enablement/training (e.g., Grafana).

University Professor (part-time) — DevOps Diploma · 2024 – present

Teach Operating Systems, Databases and Microservices.

SELF-DIRECTED

Two-node self-hosted homelab — production-grade lab: Traefik + Authelia, AdGuard DNS, full Grafana/Loki/Prometheus/Alloy observability, NAS (RAID1 + btrfs), Tailscale; exposed publicly via **Cloudflare Tunnel + Zero Trust Access** with a hardened edge (HSTS/CSP, docker-socket-proxy). Earlier, mitigated a live **DNS amplification attack** (~37×) on a 24/7-monitored MikroTik network.

CERTIFICATIONS & EDUCATION

- **AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Professional** (verifiable via Credly) · AWS Academy Educator · Kubernetes & AWS networking (Black Belt) · GenAI / LLM-ops (MCP, Claude API) — 2026
- **Computer Engineering** — Universidad Nacional de Córdoba (UNC-FCEPyN), 2017–2023 · final project *DevSecOps in IoT environments* (10/10)
- **Languages:** Spanish (native) · English (professional working proficiency)