Rakshith Siragaje Ponnappa

Principal Platform Engineer · 12+ years · Multi-cloud platforms, DevSecOps & AI deployment

Open to: Platform engineering leadership, AI platform and forward-deployed engineering roles

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SUMMARY

I build the platforms enterprises run on (landing zones, Kubernetes, Terraform and secure delivery pipelines across Azure, AWS and GCP) and lead the teams that operate them. Now I take LLM and agent systems to production with the same discipline: guardrails, evals, observability and a tested way back.

SELECTED IMPACT

- Lead 12 DevOps engineers across concurrent enterprise programmes at Ensono.
- State Street: lead architect for an NTT data-centre exit to Azure; Terraform modules from scratch, 500+ VMs with SQL MI, Oracle and cross-region DR; 3 cutovers, 10+ apps live.
- State Street: split 35,000 Terraform resources into per-app TFE workspaces and Harness pipelines with zero reboots; golden-image VM factory cut VM builds from 30 to 2–3 minutes.
- Five Below: Azure landing-zone audit (WAF 8.0 static / 6.6 runtime); remediation roadmap cut critical findings by 75% and identified $47K a year in savings.
- Intuitive: architected an AWS EKS platform prototype to onboard 20 clients and migrate 30,000 websites.
- Four years on-site in Dubai and Oman delivering Kubernetes and GitLab platforms for telecom, banking, government and energy.

EXPERIENCE

Expert Technology Consultant – DevOps (Principal Consultant) · Ensono — Dec 2022 - Present
Bengaluru · remote delivery to UK, US & GCC clients

- Designed reusable GitLab CI templates with OIDC multi-cloud authentication and MR-gated SAST, DAST and secret detection, adopted across engagements.
- State Street (PFI): lead architect, end to end, for an NTT data-centre exit to Azure; built the Terraform module library from scratch (VM, SQL MI, Oracle, load balancer, Front Door, Key Vault/DES, ASR, RSV), provisioned 500+ VMs configured for DR, and ran 3 production cutovers that put 10+ applications live.
- State Street (PFI): cross-region DR on Azure Site Recovery (private-endpoint CMK vault, batch recovery plans, SQL MI geo-failover, RPO target under 15 min); split 35,000 Terraform resources into per-app TFE workspaces and Harness pipelines with zero reboots; built a golden-image VM factory that cut VM builds from 30 to 2–3 minutes.
- Crédit du Maroc: led the multi-hop self-managed GitLab upgrade and migration of the bank's CI/CD estate.
- Five Below: Azure landing zone audit (WAF 8.0 static / 6.6 runtime, CIS); remediation roadmap cut critical findings by 75%; $47K annual savings identified.
- PlanHub: Terraform AWS platform, CodePipeline QA/UAT/Prod, Boto3 blue/green across 5 service tiers, 7 EventBridge-driven Lambda jobs, Fivetran → Redshift, 39 SSH keys moved to 1Password.
- Mott MacDonald: ALZ QA build-out, Terraform connectivity fixes, GitHub Actions architecture; ADO → Harness migration feasibility with a 5-week phased plan.

AI Training Specialist (Agentic Coding) & DevOps Engineer · Turing — Sep 2026 - Oct 2026
Remote · contract

- Refined LLM-generated, Codeforces-style problem statements for clarity, constraints and correctness.
- Validated brute-force and optimal reference solutions; engineered chain-of-thought reasoning traces and technical metadata.
- Built Docker-based test suites and ran plagiarism checks for each task.
- DevOps for an agentic computer-use benchmark platform on GCP Cloud Run with Jenkins and GitHub Actions; stood up the develop branch and staging environment.

Site Reliability Engineer · Ozone (Huco FZCO) Sep 2019 – Dec 2022
On-ground in Dubai, UAE (3 yrs) & Oman (1 yr)

- Built self-hosted GitLab on Kubernetes with security-integrated pipelines for RAK Bank and DU Telecom.
- Deployed GKE, EKS and AKS with network policies and Cloud NAT; built Tanzu (TKGS) on vSphere 7 for a Blockchain-as-a-Service platform.
- Ran Istio, Harbor, Fluentd, Jaeger and Kasten in production.
- Real-time pipelines on AWS Kinesis and Confluent Kafka; multi-cloud network security with Private Link, VPC peering and IAM.

DevOps Engineer · Intuitive Technology Partners May 2018 – Sep 2019
Bengaluru

- Architected an AWS EKS platform prototype to onboard 20 clients and migrate 30,000 websites, including capacity planning and cost control.
- Deployed SignalFx real-time EKS monitoring with custom dashboards and proactive alerting.

Associate Consultant · Capgemini Aug 2014 – May 2018
Bengaluru · UK & Europe delivery

- Cloud transition, architecture and CI/CD delivery for Carnival, Grant Thornton, Esure, Heathrow Airport, Anglian Water, Ikano and Eneco.

OPEN SOURCE

- **TalentLens**: A resume-screening pipeline that scores candidates the way a hiring panel would. `github.com/rakshith-ponnappa/TalentLens`
- **agentic-paper-trader**: A guard-railed multi-agent LLM paper trader. `github.com/rakshith-ponnappa/agentic-paper-trader`
- **local-rag-agent-platform**: A local-first retrieval service where every stage of the RAG pipeline is visible, swappable and measured. `github.com/rakshith-ponnappa/local-rag-agent-platform`
- **agent-sandbox-conformance-kit**: A black-box test suite that checks what an AI agent code sandbox actually does, not what its documentation says. `github.com/rakshith-ponnappa/agent-sandbox-conformance-kit`

SKILLS

Cloud	Azure · AWS · GCP (incl. Cloud Run) · Huawei Cloud (G42) · VMware Tanzu · OpenShift
Infrastructure as code	Terraform / TFE · CloudFormation · Ansible / Tower · Packer · Helm
Kubernetes & cloud native	AKS · EKS · GKE · TKGS · Rancher · K3s · Istio · Linkerd · Envoy · Harbor · Kasten
CI/CD & GitOps	GitHub Actions · GitLab CI · Jenkins · Azure Pipelines · AWS CodePipeline · Harness · Tekton
DevSecOps	Checkov · Prisma Cloud · AquaSec · Snyk · SonarQube · SAST/DAST · Vault · OIDC
Observability	Prometheus · Dynatrace · New Relic · ELK/EFK · Jaeger · CloudWatch · Azure Monitor · PagerDuty
AI	LLM evaluation · Multi-agent systems · RAG & retrieval evals · MCP / A2A · Azure AI Foundry · Copilot Studio · Ollama
Data	Databricks · Redshift · Fivetran · Kafka · Kinesis · OpenSearch
Code	Python (Boto3, FastAPI) · Bash · HCL · TypeScript · YAML

CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Agentic AI Business Solutions Architect (AB-100)
AWS AI Practitioner
Microsoft Azure AI Fundamentals
AWS Solutions Architect – Professional
AWS DevOps Engineer – Professional
AWS Solutions Architect – Associate
Microsoft DevOps Engineer Expert (AZ-400)
Microsoft Azure Administrator (AZ-104)
Microsoft Azure Security Engineer
Microsoft Azure Developer Associate
Microsoft MCSA: Cloud Platform
Google Cloud Associate Cloud Engineer
CNCF Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA)
HashiCorp Terraform Associate
VMware Cloud-Native Master Specialist
Red Hat Container Platform
Palo Alto Prisma Cloud Associate
AXELOS ITIL Foundation

EDUCATION

Master of Computer Applications
Bharathidasan University · 2016 – 2018

Bachelor of Computer Applications
CMR Institute of Management Studies · 2011 – 2014

IoT, Cloud & Blockchain (additional course)
IIT Madras · 2024