

Wesley Atwell

Solutions Architect | AWS GovCloud, Networking, Security & Automation | Active TS/SCI | CISSP

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Professional Summary

Hands-on solutions architect and mission-driven systems builder with 7+ years delivering and troubleshooting cloud, network, security, and software solutions across AWS GovCloud, classified, air-gapped, and customer-controlled Department of Defense environments. Lead engineering across a dozen+ AWS accounts, translating ambiguous mission and security requirements into production infrastructure, containerized services, identity platforms, networking, infrastructure as code, and automation. Build with Python, Go, C++, Docker, AWS, Linux, and Windows, and carry unfamiliar problems from architecture through implementation, deployment, troubleshooting, and recovery. Active TS/SCI and CISSP; reduced security findings by ~90%, AWS spend by ~50%, and recurring STIG/ATO effort by five figures per month.

Core Expertise

Customer Solutions & Mission Delivery: requirements discovery, solution architecture, customer and executive technical briefings, business-development support, customer-site deployments, live troubleshooting, architecture documentation, implementation walkthroughs, cross-functional technical leadership

Software, Automation & Platform Delivery: Python, Go, C++, C, PowerShell, Bash, GitLab CI/CD, GitLab Runners, containerized build agents, AI-assisted engineering and coding agents, repository-scale analysis/refactoring, automated build/validation, versioned artifacts and images, release automation, deployment validation, rollback/recovery

AWS Cloud, Containers & Infrastructure as Code: AWS GovCloud, Docker, ECS, Terraform, OpenTofu, CloudFormation, EC2 Image Builder, EC2, EBS, RDS, S3, Lambda, ELB, Transit Gateway, Systems Manager, WorkSpaces

Networking, Security, Identity & Reliability: hybrid cloud networking, routing and segmentation, site-to-site VPNs, firewalls, IAM, PKI, CAC/PIV, MFA, Keycloak, RMF/eMASS, ATO/ATC, DISA STIG, CloudWatch, CloudTrail, AWS Config, Wazuh, ACAS/Tenable/Nessus, Linux/Windows

Professional Experience

Lead Cloud Engineer, CRI Program, AV - Albuquerque, NM

July 2025 - present

- Lead cloud infrastructure, platform, reliability, and security engineering across **a dozen+ AWS GovCloud accounts** supporting **multiple experimental satellite efforts**. Serve as technical lead for a small cloud/security team and primary technical reviewer across **several engineering and operational teams**.
- **Customer-facing solution architecture:** Support executive and government-stakeholder strategy through technical briefs, architecture/risk guidance, and RMF/ATO negotiation; contribute to **multiple business-development efforts** and coordinate requirements, implementation, validation, and troubleshooting across customer, vendor, software, infrastructure, and security teams.
- **Cloud infrastructure and container operations:** Lead production lifecycle and hardening across **EC2, EBS, WorkSpaces, ECS, and Docker**, including encrypted-volume migrations, hardened images, operating-system and application patching, SCAP agent deployment, and AWS Config remediation; supported limited **EKS** node rotations during infrastructure hardening and migration work.
- **Infrastructure as code:** Authored and maintained **Terraform and CloudFormation** for repeatable GovCloud environments, codifying networking, IAM, compute, containers, and deployment configuration in place of manual builds; additional hands-on experience with **OpenTofu**.
- **Identity and secure platform services:** Deployed and hardened a highly available **Keycloak** service using ECS, RDS, Infinispan, and JGroups with version-pinned containers, CAC/PIV, MFA, centralized logging, and **multiple SSO integrations**.
- **CI/CD and release engineering:** Built **GitLab pipelines and containerized runners** for hardened AMI deployments and C++ mission-simulation plugin development, automating build, validation, and artifact delivery in secure engineering environments.
- **Hybrid architecture and reliability:** Architected multi-account connectivity across **dozens of VPCs and multiple site-to-site VPNs** using Transit Gateway and designed multi-AZ centralized ingress, egress, and inspection with firewall enforcement and redundant NAT.
- **Security automation and measurable outcomes:** Built an ECS-hosted Python/AWS patch-management platform and automated STIG scans, vulnerability checks, and ATO evidence across a dozen+ accounts, reducing manual effort by **five figures per month**. Drove security findings down **~90%** and AWS spend down **~50%**.

- **Customer-site delivery:** Led hands-on deployments into classified, access-controlled customer environments, coordinating infrastructure, cybersecurity, customer, and engineering teams through planning, access, validation, troubleshooting, and authorization activities.
- Designed and implemented classified on-premises infrastructure for **dozens of users** supporting secure wargaming, emphasizing availability, low latency, access control, and operational reliability.
- Led ATO certification and virtualization of legacy RDT&E networks, migrating mission-critical environments off obsolete hardware ahead of schedule and under budget while improving maintainability and scalability.
- Built **RHEL 8** kickstart automation reaching **~96% STIG compliance** and standardized **Oracle Linux 8 hardened gold images**, reducing identified vulnerabilities by **~95%**. Operated ACAS, Tenable Security Center, Nessus, Wazuh, STIG Manager, and automated compliance tooling.
- Automated patching, inventory, SCAP assessment, evidence generation, and audit workflows with Python, PowerShell, Linux, and AWS; co-authored RMF/eMASS artifacts for multiple weapons-system environments and developed C++/Java simulation capabilities.

Prior Military & Defense IT Roles, United States Air Force, United States Space Force & Defense Contracting

2019 - 2024

- Operated, maintained, troubleshot, and secured **multimillion-dollar SATCOM, RF, antenna, and ground-system infrastructure** across multiple classification levels.
- Designed and built an **air-gapped cyber-training environment** with multiple isolated Active Directory domains, dynamic routing, segmented VLAN architecture, and dedicated blue-team infrastructure for controlled defensive and adversarial training scenarios.
- Led a small technical team maintaining **dozens of mass-notification sites and thousands of radios** completed **more than a thousand preventive-maintenance inspections**, cleared **hundreds of outages**, and audited/programmed **thousands of radios across dozens of units supporting tens of thousands of personnel**.
- Built and administered classified and air-gapped Active Directory, Cisco, Linux, and virtualized environments with segmentation, VPNs, dynamic routing/VLANs, 802.1X/RADIUS, DISA STIG hardening, vulnerability remediation, deployment, and outage recovery.

Selected Engineering Work

TrueTunnel VPN

2025 - present

C++23 Windows networking and systems software

- Developed a native multi-client VPN using Wintun, Winsock, encrypted TCP/UDP transports, Windows routing/NAT integration, and a Direct3D/ImGui interface, with integration testing across multiple cipher and transport configurations.

AWS Network Inventory

2026 - present

Multi-account AWS inventory, change analysis, and operational visibility

- Developing a containerized Python platform with searchable current state, historical snapshots, change comparison, JSON/report exports, CloudFormation-deployed read-only IAM roles, automated validation gates, and GitLab CI/CD.

Linux Kernel Mainline Contributions

Mar 2026 - present

Open-source systems engineering and upstream collaboration

- **7 upstream commits merged into Linus Torvalds's mainline tree** across tracing, cryptography, TCP/IPv6, and netdevsim, including race-safety, callback-context, memory/refcount, and boot-time tracing fixes accepted through maintainer review.

Education

Western Governors University, Master of Science in Information Technology

Expected Apr 2027

Western Governors University, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

2024 - 2026

Community College of the Air Force, Associate of Applied Science in Electronic Systems Technology

Class of 2021

Clearance & Certifications

Clearance: Active TS/SCI Security Clearance

Certifications: CISSP | CCNA | AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner | CompTIA Security+ | Network+ | A+ | ITIL Foundation | LPI Linux Essentials