



CLOUD ARCHITECT

Design scalable, secure, and cost-effective cloud systems

6 stages · progressive skill path

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01

4–6 weeks

CLOUD FUNDAMENTALS

Cloud Models (IaaS, PaaS, SaaS)

AWS / GCP / Azure Overview

Regions & Availability Zones

Pricing & Cost Models

Shared Responsibility Model

Cloud Networking Basics (VPC, DNS)

Understand billing before building – costs surprise every team

02

6–8 weeks

CORE CLOUD SERVICES

Compute (EC2, GCE, Azure VMs)

Object Storage (S3, GCS, Blob)

Managed Databases (RDS, Cloud SQL)

Networking (VPC, Subnets, SGs)

IAM & Least Privilege

Load Balancers

Auto Scaling Groups

Hands-on in the console first, then automate absolutely everything

03

4–6 weeks

ARCHITECTURE PATTERNS

Well-Architected Framework (5 Pillars)

Microservices Design

Serverless Architecture (Lambda)

Event-driven Architecture

Multi-tier App Patterns

API Gateway Pattern

CQRS & Event Sourcing

Every architecture decision is a trade-off – always document your reasoning

04

4–5 weeks

SECURITY & COMPLIANCE

Zero Trust Networking

Encryption at Rest & in Transit

WAF & DDoS Protection

Secrets Management (Vault, SSM)

Compliance (SOC2, HIPAA, GDPR)

Security Auditing & IAM Reviews

Security built in is cheap – security bolted on is a crisis

05

3–4 weeks

INFRASTRUCTURE AS CODE

Terraform (state, modules, workspaces)

CloudFormation or Pulumi

GitOps (ArgoCD / Flux)

Drift Detection

Policy as Code (OPA / Sentinel)

Cost Estimation (Infracost)

Manual infrastructure is not repeatable – it is a liability waiting to fail

06

3–6 months each

CERTIFICATIONS & MASTERY

AWS SAA-C03 (Solutions Architect Associate)

AWS SAP-C02 (Professional)

GCP ACE / Professional Cloud Architect

Azure AZ-104 / AZ-305

Well-Architected Reviews

FinOps Practitioner

Certifications prove the baseline – real production systems prove the architect

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