

Sandip Dhakal

Senior Platform Engineer | Cloud Security & DevSecOps

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SUMMARY

Senior Platform Engineer with 5+ years building secure cloud platforms for healthcare SaaS under HIPAA compliance. Eliminated standing access to patient health data across 6+ AWS accounts, reduced security findings by 40%+, and improved deployment reliability for 7 product teams. Built internal developer platform tooling, mentored junior engineers, and authored 50+ technical documents covering security, architecture, and disaster recovery. Certified in AWS Solutions Architecture, Terraform, and FinOps.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- ✓ Eliminated HIPAA compliance risk by designing zero standing access to patient health data across 6+ AWS accounts
- ✓ Reduced cloud security findings by 40%+ through automated compliance enforcement across the entire AWS organization
- ✓ Improved release reliability for 7 product teams, enabling 4x daily deployment frequency with automated rollback
- ✓ Cut incident detection time by 60% by deploying observability across 100+ production microservices
- ✓ Authored 50+ security procedures, architecture guides, and DR runbooks used across the engineering organization

EXPERIENCE

Senior Platform Engineer

June 2023 - Present

[Cedar Gate Technologies, Lalitpur, Nepal](#)

CLOUD SECURITY & ZERO TRUST

- Eliminated standing access to protected health information by designing a serverless JIT access system (Lambda, IAM Identity Center, DynamoDB, EventBridge) with per-bucket isolation and 15-minute auto-revoke
- Protected web applications across 6+ accounts from automated attacks by rolling out AWS WAF V2 with BOT protection and centralized logging, cutting future WAF onboarding time by 50%
- Reduced Security Hub critical findings by 40%+ by building preventive compliance automation for S3, KMS, CloudFront, EC2, Redshift, and WorkSpaces using Python and Lambda
- Closed a critical metadata service attack vector organization-wide by enforcing IMDSv2 across all EC2 instances, EKS nodes, and autoscaling groups via SCP policies

CONTAINER SECURITY & PLATFORM HARDENING

- Standardized container security across 8 EKS clusters by authoring an 8-pillar strategy: OPA Gatekeeper admission control, golden base images, Sysdig scanning, runtime hardening. Aligned to NIST SP 800-190 and SOC 2
- Reduced container vulnerability exposure by establishing a golden base image pipeline with weekly automated rebuilds, Sysdig scanning, and ECR publishing
- Improved deployment consistency and auditability by implementing ArgoCD-driven GitOps across multiple EKS clusters

INTERNAL DEVELOPER PLATFORM & AUTOMATION

- Improved documentation discovery for engineering teams by building an AI-powered search tool using AWS Bedrock RAG with PII redaction, rate limiting, and prompt injection hardening
- Eliminated lingering access risk by automating user offboarding across JFrog, AWS SSO, and Jenkins, reducing offboarding time from hours to minutes
- Completed AWS Storage Gateway VM migration across 6 accounts ahead of deprecation deadline with zero data loss
- Mentored junior platform engineers on cloud security practices, infrastructure automation, and incident response

Platform Engineer

December 2022 - June 2023

Cedar Gate Technologies, Lalitpur, Nepal

- Hardened S3 against ransomware and unauthorized access across 6+ accounts by migrating ACLs to IAM policies, enforcing access logging, and applying SSE-C restrictions
- Achieved 100% encryption compliance by applying KMS key rotation, public access blocking, and non-compliant key cleanup across all accounts
- Eliminated public database exposure by migrating RDS instances to private subnets and applying Resource Control Policies at the AWS Organization level
- Upgraded Jira (v10 LTS), Confluence (v9 LTS), and Jenkins with zero downtime across all environments
- Improved security posture for new accounts by enabling preventive and detective controls on AWS Control Tower organizational units
- Maintained 99.9%+ uptime across 9+ AWS accounts through monthly security patching with zero unplanned outages
- Completed 4 production OpenSearch domain upgrades with cross-zone load balancing, certificate rotations, and cluster right-sizing

DevOps Engineer

September 2021 - December 2022

Cedar Gate Technologies, Lalitpur, Nepal

- Enabled 4x daily release frequency by replacing 8+ manual deployment steps with unified CI/CD pipelines featuring automated backup, deploy, verify, and rollback
- Improved release reliability across 7+ product teams by implementing rolling and blue-green deployment strategies
- Shifted security left by integrating Veracode scanning (SAST, DAST, SCA) into CI/CD pipelines, catching vulnerabilities before production
- Resolved 134+ operational tickets by automating Elasticsearch operations: index restoration, alias creation, cross-zone load balancing, and replication health checks
- Reduced infrastructure provisioning time by building Terraform modules for repeatable deployments and monitoring dashboards across all services

Cloud Support Engineer

June 2020 - August 2021

Genese Cloud Solutions, Lalitpur, Nepal

- Cut incident detection time by 60% by deploying Prometheus, Grafana, and ELK observability across 100+ microservices
- Reduced support ticket volume by 35% by authoring 60+ Knowledge Base articles, achieving 85% first-contact resolution
- Saved \$50K+ annually through FinOps: resource right-sizing, RI recommendations, and tagging enforcement

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cloud Security: Zero Trust, DevSecOps, HIPAA, SOC 2, ISO 27001, NIST SP 800-190, CIS Benchmarks, SCPs, IMDSv2, WAF, Security Hub, GuardDuty, Control Tower, IAM Identity Center, CSPM

Containers: Kubernetes (EKS), Docker, Helm, OPA Gatekeeper, Sysdig, ECR, ArgoCD, Bottlerocket, Admission Control, Policy-as-Code

Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, ELK, CloudWatch, PagerDuty, APM, Metricbeat, SLI/SLO

AI & FinOps: AWS Bedrock, RAG, LLM Governance, PII Redaction, Cloud Cost Optimization, Right-sizing, Tagging Strategies, RI Planning

Cloud & Infra: AWS (EC2, EKS, Lambda, S3, IAM, VPC, CloudFormation, CloudFront, Redshift), Serverless Architecture, Azure, GCP

IaC, CI/CD & DX: Terraform, Ansible, CloudFormation, Jenkins, GitHub Actions, GitOps, Blue-Green Deployments, Veracode (SAST/DAST/SCA), Internal Developer Platform Tooling

Languages & Data: Python, Bash, PostgreSQL, Elasticsearch, OpenSearch, MongoDB, Redis, Redshift, Snowflake

CERTIFICATIONS

- AWS Certified Solutions Architect, Associate
- AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner
- HashiCorp Certified: Terraform Associate
- FinOps Certified Engineer, FinOps Foundation

- ♦ FinOps Certified FOCUS Analyst, FinOps Foundation

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Computing | The British College, Kathmandu | 2019