

Ricky Vaughn

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Summary

Cloud-focused Infrastructure Engineer with experience supporting enterprise virtualization environments and building cloud-native systems using Azure, Kubernetes, and Terraform. Proven ability to design and deploy scalable infrastructure using Infrastructure as Code, CI/CD, and GitOps practices with a focus on scalable and reliable system design.

Skills

- **Cloud Platforms:** Azure (Functions, Storage, Cosmos DB, Virtual Machines, Networking)
 - **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform, Ansible, ARM Concepts
 - **DevOps & Automation:** GitHub Actions, CI/CD, ArgoCD, Helm, Jenkins
 - **Containers & Orchestration:** Docker, Kubernetes, K9s
 - **Monitoring & Observability:** Prometheus, Grafana, Nagios, Datadog
 - **Infrastructure:** VMware vSphere, Windows Server, Linux, Enterprise Storage Systems
 - **Networking:** VNETs, Subnets, DNS, DHCP, Routing, Firewalls, CNI, VPNs
 - **Scripting & Tools:** Bash, Python, YAML, SQL
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Professional Experience

Associate Systems Engineer

Feb 2024 – Present

Auburn University — Auburn, AL

- Managed 1,000+ virtual machines across multi-host vSphere environments using VMware vSphere, maintaining high availability and consistent performance across production workloads.
- Implemented VMware Kubernetes Service (VKS) within vSphere environments to support Kubernetes workloads, modernizing infrastructure and enabling cloud-native deployment practices across existing systems.
- Led consolidation of enterprise storage infrastructure by decommissioning legacy arrays and migrating workloads to Hitachi E590 systems, reducing datacenter footprint, lowering support costs, and simplifying storage management.
- Led environment-wide Windows 10 to Windows 11 upgrade initiative across virtualized environments, standardizing OS versions and improving security compliance across production systems.

IT Specialist

Sep 2019 – Dec 2023

Auburn University — Auburn, AL

- Managed and configured 1,000+ end-user systems using enterprise imaging and deployment tools, ensuring consistent system performance and reliable access to applications.
- Diagnosed and resolved hardware and software issues across campus environments, reducing user downtime and improving overall system reliability.
- Led large-scale device deployment and upgrade cycles for 1,000+ systems, standardizing configurations and improving rollout efficiency.
- Led surplus and asset lifecycle management efforts for end-user systems, decommissioning unused devices and improving inventory accuracy across enterprise environments.

Enterprise IT Intern

Jun 2023 – Aug 2023

FanDuel — Atlanta, GA

- Contributed to a multi-site intern hackathon by designing social betting features, including bet sharing and live match chat, enabling users to engage with friends and increasing potential for real-time betting interaction.
- Collaborated on implementing email identity standards for contract workers, enabling external user access while clearly distinguishing non-employee accounts to maintain security and compliance.
- Collaborated with networking teams on firewall, switch, and wireless upgrades, supporting infrastructure improvements and enhancing network reliability.

Projects

Azure Cloud Resume Challenge

- Designed and deployed a serverless full-stack application using Azure Functions, Azure Storage, and Cosmos DB, enabling scalable backend processing with minimal operational overhead.
- Automated infrastructure provisioning using Terraform, enabling consistent, repeatable deployments and reducing manual configuration.
- Built CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions to automate application deployments, improving release speed and reducing manual steps.
- Containerized backend services using Docker, improving portability, and enabling flexible deployment across environments.

Kubernetes Home lab Cluster

- Built a multi-node Kubernetes cluster on bare-metal Linux servers using kubeadm, simulating a production container environment.
- Implemented GitOps workflows using ArgoCD and Helm, enabling automated and version-controlled application deployments.
- Deployed and hosted a portfolio website on a self-managed Kubernetes cluster using Ingress for external access, reducing cloud infrastructure usage and lowering ongoing operational costs.
- Integrated Prometheus and Grafana for monitoring, improving real-time visibility into cluster health and enabling faster troubleshooting.
- Deployed containerized applications using Kubernetes Deployments, Services, and Ingress, supporting scalable and resilient workloads.

AI Chatbot

- Built a FastAPI-based AI chatbot integrating LLM APIs, enabling real-time conversational responses through structured REST endpoints.
- Containerized and deployed the application to Kubernetes using Docker and ArgoCD, implementing secure secret management and enabling scalable, repeatable deployments.

Education

Bachelor of Science, Information Systems Management
Auburn University

Dec 2023

Certifications

- VMware Certified Professional – Data Center Virtualization (VCP-DCV)
- Microsoft Azure Administrator (AZ-104)