Rakshith Siragaje Ponnappa

Principal Platform Engineer · 12+ years · Cloud platforms, SRE & AI agent infrastructure

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

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SUMMARY

I build and run the platforms enterprises and AI teams depend on: landing zones, Kubernetes, Terraform and secure delivery pipelines across Azure, AWS and GCP, and the sandboxed environments where AI agents are trained and evaluated. The discipline is the same everywhere: infrastructure as code, guardrails, evals, observability and a tested way back. I lead technical delivery across enterprise programmes and set the engineering standards.

SELECTED IMPACT

- 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.
- Turing (contract): built the sandboxed desktop image computer-use AI agents train and are evaluated in; ported the eval harness to a new provider and security-tested it.
- 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.
- PlanHub (freelance SRE & platform engineer): AWS on Terraform, zero-downtime blue/green releases across 5 service tiers, HIPAA/GDPR-aligned controls.
- 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.
- 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.

Professional Services Engineer · GitLab — Oct 2026 - Present
Remote · contract · customer: Crédit du Maroc (banking, Morocco)

- Execute the multi-hop upgrade path (27 hops in phase 1), each hop rehearsed on a copy of live data and promoted only on evidence, with the untouched copy as the rollback.
- Run maintenance windows end to end: runner traffic blocked at the proxy, background migrations drained, PostgreSQL upgrades at major versions, validation scripts before and after, then a test pipeline and a written report per hop.
- Turned the method into a public, field-tested runbook: gitlab-omnibus-upgrade-playbook.

DevOps Engineer, AI Agent Training Platform · Turing — Sep 2026 - Nov 2026
Remote · contract

- Built the sandboxed Linux desktop image (GNOME, arm64) that computer-use agents operate in, and ported the agent evaluation harness to a new managed sandbox provider.
- Ran the sandbox-provider migration analysis and proof of concept, and black-box conformance and security testing of the sandboxes: network egress policy, cloud-metadata probes, quota limits, snapshots, PTY/SSH/Git and secrets, with captured evidence and retests of vendor fixes.

- Platform DevOps on GCP Cloud Run with Jenkins and GitHub Actions: stood up the develop branch and staging environment, and designed the dev environment (design note plus Terraform for bootstrap, dev and prod).

Site Reliability & Platform Engineer (Freelance) · PlanHub — Jun 2023 - Jul 2025
Remote · US construction-tech SaaS

- Owned the AWS platform in Terraform: VPC, RDS PostgreSQL with read replicas, ALB, NAT, Route 53 and ACM, with containerised services on ECS Fargate, ECR and CloudWatch logging.
- Ran the developer platform: QA/UAT/Prod CI/CD on CodePipeline, CodeBuild and CodeDeploy with GitHub and Slack, and Boto3 blue/green cut-overs for zero-downtime releases across 5 service tiers.
- Automated routine operations: 7 EventBridge-scheduled Lambda jobs for archival, cleanup and push notifications.

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.

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`

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