

STEPH SIMMONS

CLOUD & PLATFORM ENGINEER · AWS SOLUTIONS ARCHITECT

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PROFILE

Cloud & Platform Engineer and AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate with 10+ years in enterprise IT and 5+ years independently architecting, building, and deploying cloud-native AWS systems. Architects and owns systems end-to-end - from service selection and event flows through data and identity boundaries, infrastructure-as-code, CI/CD, observability, and operational support. Hands-on work spans event-driven and serverless systems, container workloads, multi-tenant SaaS, and AI-enabled applications. Enterprise experience across release readiness, security, incident escalation, documentation, and supportability informs designs that can be operated long after launch.

PROJECTS

- 01

RabbitHole
INDEPENDENT PROJECT
Event-driven AI video platform with adaptive-bitrate HLS delivery, live WebSocket status, speech indexing, and semantic search.
Stack: ECS Fargate · EventBridge · SQS · Lambda · ffmpeg · AWS Transcribe · Terraform · OIDC CI/CD
 - Architected asynchronous upload and processing workflows with EventBridge and SQS so the API does not block and the processing fleet scales to zero between jobs.
 - Selected ECS Fargate for CPU-bound ffmpeg transcoding and eliminated long-lived deployment credentials with OIDC-based GitHub Actions and remote Terraform state.

LIVE / GITHUB
- 02

QuicLens
CO-FOUNDER · CLOUD ENGINEER
Multi-tenant research analytics SaaS for neurodegenerative disease and prion research labs, replacing manual R scripts and Excel with structured cloud-native analysis.
Stack: TypeScript · AWS CDK · Lambda (Docker) · API Gateway · DynamoDB · WorkOS SSO · React · FastAPI
 - Enforced tenant isolation at the DynamoDB partition-key and IAM boundaries rather than relying only on application logic.
 - Built a 92-test validation suite against researcher-validated ground truth and moved scientific Lambda workloads to Docker after ARM-incompatible libraries failed in the managed runtime.

LIVE
- 03

PureZen
INDEPENDENT REBUILD
AWS Academy capstone rebuilt as a fully serverless AI spa-booking platform with a conversational concierge and data-backed admin assistant.
Stack: AWS CDK · Lambda · DynamoDB · Anthropic Claude · Ollama · React · FastAPI
 - Re-architected the application after diagnosing 10-40 second CPU-only Ollama response times, moving inference to Anthropic Claude and serverless AWS services.
 - Resolved booking availability deterministically from live DynamoDB state instead of model-generated answers; used regex-first routing for routine requests and tool use for data-backed queries.

LIVE / GITHUB

EXPERIENCE

Independent Engineer · Cloud Architecture & Product

2021-PRESENT

RabbitHole · QuicLens · PureZen

- Design and ship deployed cloud systems end-to-end in isolated AWS environments using infrastructure-as-code and automated delivery.
- Apply enterprise-grade operational readiness across observability, documentation, supportability, security boundaries, and clean handoff.

IS Supervisor · Scrum Master

2025-PRESENT

Mutual of Omaha · Omaha, NE

- Lead a 24-person enterprise IT service desk and serve as a technical escalation point for platform and infrastructure issues spanning engineering, infrastructure, identity, and security.
- Analyze incident and support telemetry and own knowledge standards to surface systemic platform issues and improve operational readiness.

Technical Lead · Scrum Master

2022-2025

Mutual of Omaha · Omaha, NE

- Owned technical intake, dependency management, and release readiness across engineering and infrastructure teams.
- Coordinated major platform changes between engineering and service operations, translating implementation dependencies into support and rollout readiness.
- Built KPI dashboards for delivery trends, capacity, and risk used by leadership.

Business Systems Consultant · Scrum Master

2019-2022

Mutual of Omaha · Omaha, NE

- Translated business requirements into detailed technical stories across multi-team delivery streams.
- Partnered with security and data teams on compliance and integration requirements.

Senior Service Desk Analyst

2015-2019

Mutual of Omaha · Omaha, NE

- Provided advanced troubleshooting across applications, platforms, and infrastructure in a high-volume enterprise environment.
- Authored knowledge content that improved engineering-ticket quality and reduced rework; led onboarding and training.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

AWS + CLOUD

Lambda · ECS Fargate · API Gateway · EventBridge · SQS · DynamoDB · S3 · CloudFront · CloudWatch · IAM

IAC + DELIVERY

AWS CDK · Terraform · GitHub Actions CI/CD · OIDC · Docker

LANGUAGES + APP

Python · TypeScript · JavaScript · FastAPI · REST APIs · React · Vite · Tailwind CSS

ARCHITECTURE

Event-driven architecture · Serverless · Container workloads · Multi-tenant architecture · Identity & access · Observability

APPLIED AI

Anthropic Claude · Ollama · AWS Transcribe · Vector Embeddings · Semantic Search · Anthropic Tool Use

EDUCATION + CERTIFICATION

AWS Certified Solutions Architect - Associate

Amazon Web Services

2026

MS, Management Information Systems + MBA (Dual)

University of Nebraska - Omaha

2024-PRESENT

BS, Management Information Systems

University of Nebraska - Omaha

2020-2023

Systems Development Certification

University of Nebraska - Omaha

2023