

Benjamin Brown

Platform Modernization Leader | Cloud, DevOps, DataOps, Enterprise Architecture & Technology Transformation

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Principal-level technology leader with 20+ years of experience across platform engineering, DevOps, DataOps, cloud modernization, release engineering, enterprise data platforms, production operations, infrastructure automation, application modernization, and regulated financial-services technology environments. Known for owning complex platforms end-to-end, stabilizing fragile systems, modernizing legacy environments, building scalable operating models, and translating technical complexity into business value for executives, stakeholders, engineers, and cross-functional teams.

My work sits at the intersection of engineering, architecture, operations, governance, and transformation. I help organizations move from reactive support models to reliable, governed, automated, and scalable technology platforms through secure cloud operating patterns, CI/CD maturity, release governance, platform reliability, stakeholder alignment, and measurable operational outcomes.

CORE CAPABILITIES

Platform Engineering & Cloud Modernization

Azure platform operations; AWS production architecture; cloud migration and transformation; environment strategy; platform governance; operational readiness; reliability engineering; cloud cost awareness.

DataOps & Enterprise Data Platforms

ADF; Synapse; Databricks; ADLS; SQL Server; IBM DB2; Informatica PowerCenter; ETL; file ingestion; SFTP; data reliability; metadata analysis; operational analytics.

Automation & Engineering Productivity

PowerShell; Bash; SQL automation; Git workflows; API automation; infrastructure-as-code practices; reusable modules; monitoring and alerting automation.

DevOps, CI/CD & Release Engineering

Azure DevOps; Jenkins; CI/CD architecture; release automation; branching strategy; rollback planning; deployment governance; automated validation; developer productivity.

Security, Governance & Compliance

Key Vault; private endpoints; managed endpoints; VNets/subnets; IAM/RBAC; Entra ID; SSO; Shibboleth; secrets management; audit readiness; production controls.

Technical Advisory & Transformation Leadership

Stakeholder alignment; executive communication; architecture review; incident leadership; root-cause analysis; mentoring; operating model design; change management.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UTIMCO - University of Texas/Texas A&M Investment Management Company | Austin, TX

Senior Platform / DevOps Engineer; Associate Director, Data Innovation & Governance | September 2021 - Present

- Provide enterprise platform ownership across Azure, Azure DevOps, Azure Data Factory, Azure Synapse, Azure Databricks, Azure Key Vault, Azure networking/private endpoints, SQL Server, Informatica PowerCenter, SFTP integrations, monitoring, alerting, IAM, CI/CD governance, and operational support processes.
- Own platform operations, release governance, deployment standards, documentation, operational controls, and production readiness for enterprise data platforms supporting analytics, accounting, risk analysis, investment decision-making, compliance, audit readiness, and executive reporting in an \$88B-\$90B AUM environment.
- Stabilized data-platform delivery by improving CI/CD reliability, reducing manual failure points, implementing monitoring and alerting, introducing operational standards, strengthening auditability, and reinforcing root-cause analysis and release discipline.
- Reduced release failure rates from approximately 30% to less than 1% within the first 90 days of a platform-stabilization effort by addressing governance, ownership, standards, visibility, operational controls, and disciplined execution - not tooling alone.
- Serve as technical lead and key platform resource for a strategic custodian transfer requiring reengineering of decades of integrations and downstream data dependencies across investment operations platforms.
- Challenged assumptions around duplicating full Dev, UAT, and Production infrastructure stacks and guided stakeholders toward repository-level separation, avoiding unnecessary licensing, provisioning, patching, security review, architecture review, and support burden while meeting business requirements.

- Own and govern CI/CD patterns for a legacy application modernization portfolio spanning approximately 72 applications across ASP.NET, C#, MVC, IIS, SQL Server, IBM DB2, Informatica PowerCenter, flat-file processing, ETL workflows, and DataOps processes.
- Automated application releases from mostly manual processes into push-button CI/CD deployments with observation and validation, improving speed, consistency, reliability, repeatability, and production control.
- Partner with infrastructure, security, data engineering, application, offshore, PMO, and leadership teams to translate ambiguous business and technical requirements into secure, scalable, supportable platform patterns.
- Mentor developers, junior engineers, and offshore team members on engineering standards, release discipline, CI/CD practices, Azure DevOps, IAM/security patterns, documentation, Agile practices, and operational ownership.
- Designed and operationalized an Azure Function to monitor file-delivery SLAs and report breaches to LogicMonitor, improving proactive visibility into data delivery risk.
- Analyze Informatica PowerCenter metadata across workflows, sessions, mappings, transformations, source and target definitions, schedules, and execution history to support troubleshooting, governance, impact analysis, and operational insight.
- Designed Azure OpenAI/RAG proof-of-concepts and AI-assisted engineering workflows using Azure AI Search, Cosmos DB vector search concepts, Cognitive Services, Blob ingestion, OpenAI API integration, structured JSON/Markdown output, and Azure DevOps automation.

Hayes Software Systems | Austin, TX

System Administrator / Release Engineer / DevOps Engineer / Production Environment Architect | May 2017 - May 2021

- Owned production architecture, release engineering, infrastructure operations, and DevOps transformation for customer-facing SaaS products supporting 400+ customer installations.
- Helped lead migration from a co-location data center with three IIS web servers and one SQL Server to AWS, scaling to 250+ EC2 instances, multiple Docker clusters, customer-specific application environments, and a broad AWS production footprint.
- Designed, supported, and operated AWS production infrastructure across EC2, RDS, ECS, ECR, Route 53, S3, CloudWatch, ELB, IAM, backups, DNS, routing, certificates, Docker, IIS, SQL Server, Jenkins, RedGate tooling, and supporting infrastructure.
- Designed Jenkins-based CI/CD pipelines for codebases ranging from ASP/VBScript to C# and React, improving deployment consistency, release repeatability, operational control, and delivery speed.
- Built reusable PowerShell automation modules, standardized deployment patterns, created environment templates, automated deployment validation, improved release management, and automated customer onboarding workflows.
- Reduced release processes that previously required hours and hundreds of manual validations to less than one hour with automated validation, while improving reliability, repeatability, onboarding speed, and configuration consistency.
- Automated customer provisioning processes including databases, IIS sites, certificates, DNS records, routing configurations, application settings, and supporting cloud resources.
- Managed monthly operating budgets ranging approximately from \$20K to \$100K while balancing scalability, reliability, cost, and customer delivery needs.
- Helped shift the organization from cloud migration thinking toward cloud transformation by identifying the need for stronger governance, automation, standardization, visibility, and scalable operating practices.

Texas Juvenile Justice Department | Brownwood, TX

Network Specialist | June 2015 - May 2017

- Implemented, maintained, monitored, and supported LAN/WAN networks and IT resources used across high-security juvenile correctional facilities in a state-agency environment.
- Supported networking, infrastructure, workstation, server, security, and operational technology needs in environments where uptime, process consistency, and secure operations were critical.
- Led development and publication of Information Resource Department field process documentation used by field personnel statewide, improving operational consistency, onboarding, supportability, and knowledge sharing.

Trinity Tek / Independent Consulting | Texas

Consultant / Systems Engineer / Infrastructure, Systems & Web Technology Consultant | Earlier Career

- Delivered technical consulting, systems administration, infrastructure support, networking, workstation support, web support, server support, and operational technology services for client and small-business environments.
- Built broad troubleshooting capability across heterogeneous environments while translating business needs into practical, reliable technical solutions for non-technical stakeholders.

SELECTED TRANSFORMATION THEMES

Enterprise Platform Stabilization

Improved CI/CD reliability, monitoring, alerting, ownership, release governance, support processes, KPIs, root-cause analysis, and operational maturity for strategic enterprise data platforms.

Cloud Migration to Cloud Transformation

Helped scale a SaaS platform from a small co-location footprint to hundreds of AWS-hosted customer environments while building the automation and operating model needed for sustainable growth.

CI/CD & Release Modernization

Converted manual, after-hours, high-risk release processes into automated, repeatable CI/CD patterns using Jenkins, Azure DevOps, PowerShell, validation, rollback planning, and standards.

Stakeholder Alignment & Consulting Discovery

Challenged overbuilt infrastructure requests by identifying underlying business requirements, using diagrams and platform education to align teams around simpler, lower-risk solutions.

Legacy Application Portfolio Modernization

Supported modernization of approximately 72 applications across classic ASP/VBScript, C#, MVC, IIS, SQL Server, DB2, Informatica, ETL, SSO, and CI/CD practices.

AI-Assisted Engineering & Knowledge Search

Designed Azure OpenAI/RAG concepts and AI-assisted pull request workflows that connect emerging AI capability to secure, governed, human-in-the-loop enterprise engineering practices.

TECHNOLOGY SUMMARY

Cloud & Platform: Azure, AWS, ADF, Synapse, Databricks, ADLS, Key Vault, Azure Functions, Azure Networking, private endpoints, managed endpoints, EC2, RDS, ECS, ECR, Route 53, S3, CloudWatch, ELB, IAM, Docker, IIS, Windows Server Core, Linux

DevOps & Automation: Azure DevOps, Azure Pipelines, Jenkins, Git, CI/CD architecture, release automation, branching strategy, rollback planning, PowerShell, Bash, SQL automation, Python exposure, Terraform exposure, RedGate tools, API automation

Data & Integration: SQL Server, IBM DB2, Informatica PowerCenter, ETL pipelines, flat-file processing, SFTP, APIs, file ingestion, DataOps, MySQL, MariaDB, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, Oracle exposure, metadata analysis

Application & Hosting: Classic ASP, VBScript, ASP.NET, C#, MVC, React exposure, JavaScript, PHP exposure, IIS, Apache, Tomcat, Dockerized applications, customer-specific SaaS environments, legacy application modernization

Security & Governance: Entra ID, RBAC, IAM, SSO, Shibboleth, Key Vault, secrets management, private networking, certificates, DNS, routing, firewalls, architecture review, access controls, environment isolation, audit readiness, production controls

AI & Knowledge Systems: Azure OpenAI, OpenAI API, Azure AI Search, Cosmos DB vector search concepts, Cognitive Services, Blob ingestion, RAG patterns, document indexing, prompt design, structured output, AI-assisted PR review

LEADERSHIP & OPERATING PRINCIPLES

- Build platforms as operating models, not isolated tools: ownership, governance, standards, observability, automation, documentation, and disciplined execution must work together.
- Translate task to impact, technology to business value, engineer to trusted advisor, troubleshooter to transformation leader, and tool expertise to scalable operating model.
- Use discovery before solutioning: clarify the business requirement, identify the actual risk being mitigated, challenge assumptions respectfully, and align stakeholders around practical outcomes.
- Create durable technical systems that reduce operational burden, improve reliability, increase delivery confidence, and allow teams to move faster without increasing risk.

REPRESENTATIVE ROLE ALIGNMENT

Principal Platform Engineer | Staff Platform Engineer | Principal DevOps Engineer | Cloud Platform Architect | Enterprise Platform Architect | Data Platform Architect | Platform Engineering Lead | Engineering Excellence Leader | Developer Productivity Leader | DevSecOps Lead | Cloud Transformation Consultant | Principal Technical Consultant | Technical Advisory Consultant | SRE / Platform Reliability Leader | Infrastructure Modernization Lead | DataOps Platform Leader

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

- ITIL v4 Foundation
- Associate of Science, Emergency Medical Services - Hill College
- Computer Information Systems coursework - Tarleton State University, 80+ credit hours toward B.S.
- Previous AWS and Microsoft technical training/certifications