

Brandon Shutter

Cloud architect who ships the tooling

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Solutions architect with 15+ years across cloud governance, FinOps, and enterprise infrastructure on AWS, Azure, GCP, and OCI. For most of my career I handed blueprints to engineering teams; now I **design and ship the tooling myself**. I own how customers automate Kion's FinOps+ platform and how their spend data gets into it, including the converters that bring AI and SaaS spend under the same governance as cloud, and previously led cloud architecture and a 600-person delivery organization for NASA. Alongside that I run two companies of my own, which keeps me honest about the difference between an architecture diagram and a system that has to stay up. Army veteran.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Cloud	AWS, Azure, GCP, OCI · multi-account, multi-org, government and commercial
IaC & Automation	Terraform (provider and module authorship), Ansible, GitHub Actions, GitLab CI
Governance	Cloud policy and guardrails, IAM, SCPs, compliance standards, enforcement and budgets
FinOps	FOCUS specification, cost normalization, chargeback and showback, AI and SaaS spend governance
Build	Go, TypeScript, Next.js, React Native, Convex, Postgres, OpenAPI-driven codegen
Practice	Customer design sessions, product ownership, technical leadership and hiring

EXPERIENCE

Kion · Senior Solutions Architect

Sep 2022 – Present

A FinOps+ and cloud governance platform for AWS, Azure, GCP, and OCI. I own how customers automate Kion, and how their spend data gets into it.

- **Spend governance is widening past cloud**, and I own that work. Built the FOCUS converters that normalize OpenAI, Anthropic, Databricks, and Azure Partner Center billing into the platform, so customers apply the same budgets, enforcements, and chargeback to AI and SaaS spend that they already run on their cloud accounts.
- Lead technical discovery and design sessions with enterprise architects across all four CSPs, deliver against each of them, and turn the problems that keep recurring in the field into product direction.
- Built **kion-sizer**, which sizes a deployment from a prospect's Cost and Usage Report before anything is deployed, a GCP billing consolidation tool merging per-account BigQuery exports into one source, and ITSM integrations wiring governance events into ServiceNow.
- Own the **Terraform provider** and its ~35-module library (86K+ Registry downloads): a codegen-driven rebuild on HashiCorp's Plugin Framework generating 72 service packages from our OpenAPI spec, a version-negotiation model that returns a clear diagnostic instead of an opaque API error, and the migration CLI that moves customers off the previous provider.

NASA EAST2 Program · Chief Architect (via SAIC)

Feb 2018 – Mar 2020

Chief Architect for the EAST2 WSO Program and Technical Director for EAST2 AAO, accountable for technical leadership of product delivery across NASA Enterprise Mission Essential products.

- Hired, trained, and led multiple teams totaling **600 people** across MSFC, JPL, KSC, HQ, and remote sites.
- Renegotiated technology needs for **\$500K+ annualized savings**, plus \$100K+ more from right-sizing and reserved-instance strategy.
- Converted existing infrastructure to Terraform and Ansible, moved applications onto cloud-native auto-scaling, and established CI/CD across the stack.
- Product Owner for ~15 products, coordinating external customers, internal developers, and management on deadlines and contractual obligations.

SAIC · MSP Technical Operations Management Delivery Lead

Dec 2017 – Aug 2022

- Architected solutions for SAIC's internal and external managed-service customers across AWS, GCP, Azure, and OCI.
- Automated account lifecycle management with GitLab CI runners: standup through decommissioning, and every resource bootstrap between.
- Built an ETL and data lake consolidating every CSP invoice into AWS, integrated with Athena and Glue Studio so teams could query billing data without additional middleware.

- Delivered an end-to-end outage workflow in ServiceNow: an RSS parser across all CSPs detected outages, notified affected customers, and drove provider communication to recover bill credits on SLA breaches.
- Managed 15+ AWS payer accounts, the GCP environment, Azure EA AOSG and CSP Gov/Commercial, and OCI Gov environments.

Also held: Cloud Computing Engineer, Senior Principal (2022) · HashiCorp Alliance Champion (2019–2022) · Cloud Computing Engineer Manager (2018–2022) · Cloud Solutions Architect (2017–2018)

VENTURES

Project Parabellum · Founder Active

2024 – Present

A subscription platform for licensed firearms dealers, the market data layer for an industry that had none.

- Ingests wholesale inventory and pricing from **17 distributors**, each its own parser and fetcher, normalizing heterogeneous CSV, API, and FTP feeds into a single catalog on the order of **360,000 products**.
- A Convex and Postgres hybrid: Convex holds reactive application state, Postgres carries the high-volume catalog behind 748 idempotent migrations.
- Onboarding gates on real FFL verification: ATF database lookup, license upload, then admin approval driven from a Slack sidecar running inside the ECS task.
- Web and React Native clients share one generated data layer, so there is no second implementation to keep in sync.

Convex · Go · Next.js · React Native · Postgres · AWS ECS · Terraform · Stripe

Mile High Ideas · Founder Active

2019 – Present

A Colorado studio building for local service businesses, plus the custom applications a few of them outgrew their websites for.

- A **13-site WordPress fleet** in one monorepo on one server. CI diffs each push, extracts only the client sites that changed into a build matrix, and fans out parallel zero-downtime Ansible deploys.
- DNS and servers as code: a reusable per-site Terraform module declares each client's zone while preserving their real mail and verification records.
- An operations platform running companies, projects, time tracking, retainer drawdown, Stripe invoicing, and contract e-signature with a per-recipient audit trail. Built to replace a purchased tool.
- **CAMCO** (portal.camconow.com): an operations platform for a paving contractor: estimating, crews, fleet, time clock, QC, and documents across 227 tables, with a custom IAM layer and QuickBooks sync. A Next.js office portal and a React Native field app over one backend, released with health checks and automatic rollback.
- **CCMG**: six brands for a claims advocacy and construction management group, plus Saga, a 23-table HOA/manager marketplace rebuilt off Airtable with a resumable import engine, and Google Workspace as Terraform across six tenant domains.
- **Trofeo Motoring Society**: rally registration and payments on Stripe embedded checkout with a verified webhook.

Next.js · Convex · React Native · Terraform · Ansible · Cloudflare · Stripe

Dashtag Platforms · Co-founder & Technical Lead Past

Feb 2025 – Aug 2026

Co-founded a vehicle-enthusiast platform and led its engineering from empty repository to apps in both stores. Every vehicle gets a persistent digital identity: QR codes printed onto stickers before the vehicle exists in the system, then claimed to a profile carrying service history, modifications, and ownership records.

- Published a **Terraform provider for vehicles**: ten resources generated from an OpenAPI spec itself generated from the backend schema, so one source of truth produced the provider and the SDKs alike. Dogfooded against a real five-vehicle garage as 26 imported resources.
- Self-hosted routing on ECS Fargate Spot, launched on demand by a private Lambda router and self-terminating when idle, so it cost nothing at rest and exposed no public endpoint under a Control Tower policy denying anonymous Lambda URLs.
- Built the React Native app and shipped it to the App Store and Play Store across 38 minor releases, carrying the QR claim flow, event tickets, and wallet passes.
- Weekly production error triage against real traffic, including an $O(\log n)$ rewrite of leaderboard ranking that had become a hot path under load.

Convex · Next.js · React Native · Go · Terraform · AWS · Cloudflare

OPEN SOURCE & TOOLING

- **claude-hooks**: 24 Go binaries that sit between an AI coding agent and a repository: blocking destructive commands, enforcing tests on commit, and validating structure via tree-sitter AST analysis rather than pattern matching. ~56,700 lines. github.com/milehighideas/claude-hooks
- **oxlint-plugin-convex**: nine lint rules catching the backend mistakes that only surface under load, built without type information so they run at native linter speed on every keystroke. npm: [@milehighideas/oxlint-plugin-convex](https://www.npmjs.com/package/@milehighideas/oxlint-plugin-convex)
- **PDR Telemetry**: decodes the undocumented telemetry stream inside Cadillac Performance Data Recorder video: GPS, per-wheel speed, three-axis acceleration, rpm and tyre temperatures at ~80Hz. github.com/milehighideas/pdr-telemetry
- **sift**: a zero-dependency Swift macOS CLI that ages files through a review-then-delete pipeline with countdown tags written into Finder. github.com/milehighideas/sift
- **deploy-tool**: a Go CLI running deploys as a fixed phase pipeline, deferring the release commit until the end so a failed build cannot leave a phantom version bump behind.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

- **Chargebacks911**, Solutions Architect (2017): cloud-native ETL with executive staff, Ansible automation, company-wide PCI and SOX compliance.
- **Mad Mobile**, Systems Architect / DevOps (2017): AWS and Rackspace across 200+ servers; cut server count from 400 to under 200 and built a cost-effective DR site.
- **Calton Nutrition**, Chief Technical Officer (2014–2016): directed cloud architecture and led the development team; renegotiated supplier contracts for \$1M+ annualized savings.
- **OnyourMark, LLC**, Information System Architect (2012–2013): managed 100+ clients in AWS and migrated ~1,000 colocated servers with Jenkins, Chef, Puppet, and Ansible.
- **Ivize**, System Administrator (2009–2012): networks, servers, and Active Directory for law firms across Milwaukee and Madison.
- **US Army**, Signal Support Specialist (2005–2009): communications across 40+ vehicles at >90% readiness, accountable for \$2.5M+ in equipment, enforcing cryptographic control and information assurance policy.

CERTIFICATIONS

Active: HashiCorp Certified Vault Associate (2020) · Docker Certified Associate (2018) · CompTIA Cloud Essentials (2018) · Emerging Leaders Program, GP Strategies (2021)

Previously held, 2016–2020: AWS Solutions Architect Professional · AWS DevOps Engineer Professional · AWS Solutions Architect Associate · AWS SysOps Administrator Associate · AWS Developer Associate · AWS Cloud Practitioner · Google Cloud Professional Cloud Architect · Certified ScrumMaster