JULIAN MERCER

CLOUD SECURITY ENGINEER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Cloud Security Engineer with 7+ years securing AWS and Azure workloads through least-privilege IAM, policy as code, and automated remediation. Helps product teams ship faster by turning guardrails into paved roads instead of review queues.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Cloud Security Engineer Apr 2022 - Present
Snowflake, San Mateo, CA

- Redesigned AWS IAM roles across 85 accounts using permission boundaries, removing 1,900 unused privileges in six months.
- Built Open Policy Agent checks into Terraform pipelines, blocking 410 risky configurations before deployment.
- Automated remediation for public storage and open security groups with Lambda, shrinking median exposure time from 3 days to 40 minutes.
- Led a cloud posture program with product teams, raising CIS benchmark pass rates from 72% to 93%.
- Created an incident runbook for compromised access keys, used successfully in two containment exercises.
- Enforced guardrails with AWS Service Control Policies and Config rules across 85 accounts, blocking public storage buckets before deployment.
- Built a Terraform module library with secure defaults for IAM, encryption, and logging, adopted by seven engineering teams.

Cloud Security Engineer Jun 2019 - Mar 2022
Capital One, McLean, VA

- Enforced encryption and logging standards on 1,200 cloud resources using Cloud Custodian policies and weekly exception reviews.
- Implemented centralized CloudTrail and GuardDuty monitoring, giving the SOC full coverage of production accounts.
- Introduced short-lived credentials through SSO federation, retiring 640 long-lived access keys.
- Partnered with platform engineers on a container baseline, reducing critical image vulnerabilities 46%.
- Integrated container image scanning into CI pipelines for 120 services, preventing high-severity vulnerabilities from reaching production clusters.
- Reduced standing administrator access by 70% through just-in-time privileged roles and quarterly entitlement reviews.

Systems Security Engineer Aug 2017 - May 2019
Booz Allen Hamilton, McLean, VA

- Supported FedRAMP-aligned Azure environments, producing configuration evidence for 90 security control requirements.
- Scripted Azure Policy reports that replaced manual spreadsheets and cut monthly audit preparation by 12 hours.
- Reviewed network and identity designs with client architects, resolving 25 design risks before launch.

CORE SKILLS

Cloud IAM | AWS security | Azure security | Security automation | Terraform | Open Policy Agent | Cloud Custodian | GuardDuty | Container security | CIS benchmarks | Python | Secrets management | Logging and monitoring | FedRAMP

EDUCATION

B.S. in Information Technology, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Security - Specialty | Certified Cloud Security Professional (CCSP)