Christopher J. Mahan

Cloud Architect · FinOps · Data & AI · Cloud Governance · AWS

Sioux Falls, South Dakota · hello@chrisjmahan.com · chrisjmahan.com · LinkedIn

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SUMMARY

Cloud architect, FinOps leader, and data scientist with 9+ years of AWS experience supporting large-scale government and mission-critical systems, across cloud architecture, software engineering, DevOps, data science, data management, FinOps, cloud governance, and enterprise analytics.

Currently supporting the Landsat mission and USGS programs at KBR: architecting cloud solutions, managing AWS infrastructure, optimizing cloud financial performance, governing enterprise data, and translating complex technical and financial information into recommendations for engineering leadership, program management, and government stakeholders.

EXPERIENCE

KBR, Sioux Falls, SD

Progressive technical leadership roles supporting the Landsat / USGS mission · 2018 – Present

Lead FinOps Engineer

2025 – Present

- Lead FinOps and cloud financial management across AWS environments supporting mission-critical government programs.
- Own cloud cost visibility, financial analysis, forecasting, budgeting, reporting, and accountability across technical and program stakeholders.
- Analyze AWS consumption, utilization, and spending trends to find cost optimization, rightsizing, waste reduction, and governance opportunities.
- Develop and automate financial reporting workflows with Alteryx and enterprise analytics platforms, improving consistency, efficiency, and data quality.
- Build executive-level dashboards and financial visualizations with Tableau, Grafana, Athena, and Redshift.
- Partner with engineering, cloud operations, and program teams to strengthen FinOps adoption, cost accountability, and optimization practices.

Senior Landsat Data Manager

2022 – Present

- Lead enterprise-scale Landsat data management: ingestion, validation, storage, distribution, accessibility, and lifecycle governance of critical Earth observation datasets.
- Manage high-volume geospatial and remote-sensing data workflows across cloud and on-premises environments, maintaining integrity, availability, and continuity.
- Support AWS-based data processing architectures designed for scalability, reliability, and automation.
- Develop data governance processes for data quality, metadata validation, auditing, stewardship, and long-term lifecycle management.
- Perform large-scale operational and data analysis with Elasticsearch, Kibana, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, Athena, Redshift, Tableau, and Grafana.
- Provide technical leadership and mentorship across cloud operations, data management, analytics, and process improvement.

Data Scientist II

Earlier role

- Applied data-driven methods to operational, financial, and technical datasets to find trends, anomalies, and optimization opportunities.
- Built analytical workflows, dashboards, and reporting with SQL, Python, Tableau, Grafana, Elasticsearch, Athena, Redshift, PostgreSQL, and Alteryx.
- Translated business and mission questions into measurable data solutions with engineers and program stakeholders.

Cloud DevOps Engineer II

Earlier role

- Designed, implemented, and automated AWS infrastructure for cloud-native applications and mission-critical processing environments.
- Developed infrastructure as code with Terraform, CloudFormation, AWS CDK, AWS SAM, and Ansible.
- Built and maintained CI/CD with Git, GitLab CI/CD, and Jenkins across EC2, Lambda, API Gateway, DynamoDB, RDS, S3, Athena, Redshift, CloudWatch, and EKS.

Systems Engineer II

Earlier role

- Designed and supported enterprise systems integrating application, infrastructure, data, and operational requirements for Landsat and USGS mission workflows.
- Performed systems analysis, troubleshooting, and performance analysis; produced architecture diagrams and technical procedures.

Software Engineer II

Earlier role

- Designed and developed AWS cloud-native and serverless applications for operational workflows, cloud inventory, data processing, and image processing.
- Built APIs, data-processing workflows, and integrations with Lambda, API Gateway, DynamoDB, RDS, S3, Athena, Redshift, and CloudWatch.
- Mentored junior engineers and supported onboarding through technical guidance and documentation.

Founder & builder, independent products

Ongoing

- Design, build, and operate eight live products end to end, including PolicyChecked (insurance tech with AI document analysis) and Everkinly (private memorials, Stripe, Postgres RLS).
- Run everything on AWS with infrastructure as code, least-privilege IAM, and FinOps discipline: most products cost a few dollars a month to operate.
- Consulting through Ufanzo in AI automation, data, cloud and FinOps.

CERTIFICATIONS

FinOps Certified Practitioner (FOCP)

FinOps Foundation

Cloud financial management: cost visibility, forecasting, optimization, governance, and collaboration among finance, engineering, and business.

Certified Data Management Professional (CDMP)

DAMA International

Data governance, data quality, metadata, data architecture, data lifecycle, and enterprise data management.

EDUCATION

B.S., Computer Science & Software Engineering, Augustana University

2018 · GPA 3.7

B.S., Computer Information Systems, Augustana University

2018 · GPA 3.8

Dean's List · Computer Science Club · University Newspaper

SKILLS

Cloud & AWS	Lambda · API Gateway · DynamoDB · RDS · S3 · Athena · Redshift · CloudWatch · EC2 · EKS · IAM · VPC · CloudFront · SES
Infrastructure as code & DevOps	CloudFormation · AWS CDK · AWS SAM · Terraform · Serverless Framework · Ansible · GitLab CI/CD · Jenkins · CodeBuild
FinOps	Cost visibility · Forecasting · Budgeting · Rightsizing · Utilization analysis · Financial modeling · Executive reporting
Data & analytics	SQL · PostgreSQL · Python · Tableau · Grafana · Alteryx · Elasticsearch · Kibana · Data governance · Metadata management
Software & AI	TypeScript · Next.js · React · Node.js · Supabase · Postgres RLS · Stripe · Claude / LLM APIs · Vitest · Playwright

COMMUNITY

DAMA South Dakota, Founding Member

Growing South Dakota's data-management community through education and professional development.

Children's Rescue International, Volunteer Contributor

Website development, online presence, social media, and donation services.

LSS Mentoring, Community Mentor

Mentoring youth on values, ethics, and personal growth.