

LAWRENCE CHIWAYA

Senior Systems Engineer · Cloud & Infrastructure Architect · SRE / DevOps · AI-Driven Operations

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Harare, Zimbabwe · Open to remote & international roles (CAT, UTC+2, flexible) · github.com/Larrytait

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Systems Engineer with 7+ years in fintech infrastructure, currently leading SRE and platform engineering for Zimbabwe's largest mobile money platform (6M+ active subscribers). Led the infrastructure workstream for a \$20M+ core platform migration with zero-downtime cutover, doubling transaction throughput. Deep expertise in hybrid cloud architecture (Azure, AWS, GCP, OCI), Infrastructure as Code (Terraform, Ansible), and Kubernetes, with a growing focus on AI-driven operations — applying generative AI and AIOps tooling to automate monitoring, incident response, and capacity planning. OCI Generative AI certified. Known for building automation-first teams that deliver 99.9%+ availability at national scale.

CORE SKILLS

Cloud Platforms: Microsoft Azure, AWS, Google Cloud, Oracle Cloud (OCI)

IaC & Automation: Terraform, Ansible, GitHub Actions, Azure DevOps, GitLab CI, PowerShell, Bash, Python

Containers & Virtualisation: Kubernetes (EKS/AKS), Docker, OpenShift, VMware vSphere, FusionSphere, Oracle VM

AI & GenAI: OCI Generative AI (certified), AIOps (Dynatrace, Splunk AI, Checkmk, VMware Aria), GitHub Copilot,

AI-assisted automation & scripting

Observability: Prometheus, Grafana, ELK, Zabbix, Nagios

Storage & Resilience: IBM SAN, Veeam, TSM, OceanProtect; HA/DR design, capacity planning

Data & Networking: MySQL, PostgreSQL, Oracle, Redis · F5, FortiGate, Cisco, Cloudflare, DNS, VPN

Security & Governance: ISO 27001, SOC 2, Active Directory / Entra ID, O365 Security, ITIL, Agile/Scrum

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Systems Engineer (Team Lead) — Econet Wireless – Fintech Pvt Ltd · Sept 2019 – Present

Promoted three times: Systems Support Analyst → Systems Engineer (2020) → Senior Systems Engineer / Team Lead (2023). Lead infrastructure strategy and SRE practice for Zimbabwe's largest mobile money platform.

- **Platform migration:** Led the infrastructure workstream of a \$20M+ core mobile money migration to Huawei (2025–26), including full hardware refresh — doubled TPS and achieved zero downtime during cutover for 6M+ subscribers.
- **Leadership:** Manage a team of 5 systems engineers, owning the infrastructure budget and roadmap for a platform processing millions of transactions monthly.
- **Hybrid cloud architecture:** Designed and operate hybrid environments across Azure, AWS, VMware, Oracle VM and FusionSphere sustaining 99.9% availability for mission-critical fintech services.
- **Automation & IaC:** Cut server deployment time by 50% by codifying 1,000+ VMs with Terraform and Ansible; embedded an automation-first culture across the team.
- **Reliability engineering:** Established SLO-driven monitoring and incident response practice; reduced P1 incidents by 80% and cut mean time to recovery from 4 hours to 1 hour.
- **Cost optimisation:** Drove capacity right-sizing and licence consolidation across the virtual estate, saving 30% in annual infrastructure spend.
- **AIOps:** Piloted AI-driven observability (Dynatrace, Splunk AI, VMware Aria) for anomaly detection and predictive alerting, reducing alert noise by 50%.
- **CI/CD:** Built CI/CD pipelines (Azure DevOps, GitLab CI) that increased deployment velocity and reduced release-related downtime.
- **Earlier delivery:** Led infrastructure for a \$5M+ platform modernization (2019–20), doubling capacity with zero-downtime cutover; migrated 500+ users from on-prem Exchange to Office 365.

Data Centre Systems Administrator (Graduate Trainee) — Twenty Third Century Systems · Nov 2018 – Aug 2019

Enterprise data centre operations for a leading regional IT solutions provider.

- **Expansion:** Delivered a \$3M+ data centre expansion, increasing compute/storage capacity by 50% while halving power and rack utilisation.
- **Operations:** Administered 1,000+ VMs across VMware, PowerVM and IBM SAN; migrated the estate from vSphere 5 to 6.5.
- **Automation & security:** Automated routine sysadmin tasks with Ansible (–50% manual effort); rolled out 2FA and permission hardening, cutting security incidents by 30%.

CERTIFICATIONS

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| • Google Cloud Professional Cloud Architect | • Project Management Professional (PMI) |
| • Microsoft Azure Administrator (AZ-104) | • Red Hat Certified System Administrator (RHCSA) |
| • OCI 2024 Generative AI Certified Professional | • Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA) |
| • ITIL Foundation | • Scrum Foundation Professional |
| • ISO 27001 Associate | |

PORTFOLIO & TECHNICAL WRITING

Open-source IaC: github.com/Larrytait/ansible — Ansible automation roles · **Website:** lawrencechiwaya.uk

EDUCATION

Master's in Business Management and Information Technology (MBMIT) — Catholic University of Zimbabwe · 2026
Honours in Business Studies and Computer Science (HBSCT) — University of Zimbabwe · 2018