

Ben Whaley

Seasoned technology professional

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Veteran tech architect and original AWS Community Hero with 20+ years of experience in the industry. Proven track record of results, driving \$10M+ in annual savings through innovative infrastructure solutions and custom open source tooling. Co-author of the UNIX & Linux System Administration Handbook. Combining deep technical experience with a bias for action to build resilient, secure, and cost-effective distributed systems.

Skills

Leadership: Team leadership, mentorship, systems architecture and design, cost control

Security: Infrastructure and application security, SecOps, compliance

Technology: Cloud, Kubernetes, containers and virtualization, CI/CD, networking, observability, etc

Code: Go, Python, Ruby, Typescript, Terraform, and more

AI: A friend and collaborator, but played no part in writing this resume

Experience

Staff Software Engineer

Chime January 2022 – September 2025 (remote)

- Orchestrated cost-control initiatives that realized \$10M+ in annual savings. Institutionalized cloud cost control as a core competency across the business.
- Designed and deployed Alternat, an open-source networking solution that reduced data transfer expenses, resulting in \$6M in annual recurring savings.
- Engineered and launched a novel load-shedding system to improve platform stability and resilience during peak traffic events.
- Served as a core member of the Platform Engineering leadership team. Partnered with management to foster a culture of sustainable, scalable engineering and prudent technical decision-making

Principal Software Engineer

Gruntwork July 2019 – January 2022 (remote)

- Conceived, designed, and launched a new product line for the CIS AWS Foundations Benchmark, handling the full lifecycle from initial implementation to long-term support.
- Supported the sales organization, successfully closing \$2M+ in new customer contracts by leveraging deep technical expertise during the sales cycle.
- Led a major refactor of the Reference Architecture product, implementing an advanced configuration model to support complex multi-account and multi-network environments.
- Developed and maintained a suite of infrastructure tools using Go, Python, Terraform, and TypeScript to power the core Gruntwork product ecosystem.

Prior experience since 2004: consulting, infosec, product dev, and more; see LinkedIn.

Education

2004 - BS in Computer Science - University of Colorado, Boulder

Publications, Achievements, and Certifications

Co-author, UNIX & Linux System Administration Handbook, 4th and 5th editions

Honored by AWS as Community Hero 2014 - 2024

Certified Information Security Professional 2007 - 2019