Valerie Jones

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER | TECHNICAL LEAD

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Innovative senior software engineer and technical lead with 8+ years of experience. Proven ability to lead architectural transformations, modernize legacy systems, deliver scalable, secure, cloud-native platforms, and guide cross-functional teams through ambiguous, high-impact initiatives. Strong background in AWS, infrastructure as code, event-driven systems, and full-stack development, with a track record of improving reliability, developer velocity, and program outcomes.

Skills

Cloud & Infrastructure
AWS (EC2, S3, CloudFront, IAM, Cognito, Lambda, SQS, SNS, EventBridge, CloudWatch, API Gateway, DynamoDB, Step Functions), Terraform, AWS CDK, CloudFormation, Linux, Windows

Backend & Databases
Python, Node.js, REST APIs, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, relational & NoSQL database design, distributed job processing, event-driven architectures, security

Frontend & Full-Stack
Vite, React, TypeScript, Redux, Material UI, Bootstrap, accessibility-aware UI development

DevOps & Automation
GitLab CI/CD, AMI pipelines, Infrastructure as Code, secrets management, monitoring & observability, PowerShell, Bash

Experience

Senior Software Engineer /   **Xcellent Technology Solutions**   **Jan 2025 - Present**
Topo-App Tech Lead

- Led enterprise-wide AWS account migration, implementing cross-account permissions, IAM roles, and security configurations, eliminating technical debt and ensuring zero production downtime.
- Developed the US Topo Map Builder web application featuring AWS Cognito authentication, admin user management with role-based access control (RBAC), a batch job scheduling interface, real-time status tracking with pagination, state-based search and selection, and seamless integration of frontend, middleware, and post-processing workflows with the ESRI map generation backend, which processes over 65,000 records.
- Architected and deployed event-driven data transfer pipeline using AWS EventBridge, SQS, and Linux EC2 workers, replacing legacy processes with scalable infrastructure managed via Terraform and CI/CD.
- Automated the provisioning of ESRI Windows DevBox using Infrastructure as Code (IaC), reducing manual setup time by 75% through the use of PowerShell, Terraform, and GitLab CI/CD integration, along with persistent EBS volumes.
- Created automated reporting tools that reduced the time required for generating Monthly Status Reports and Release Notes from hours to minutes, achieving a 75% efficiency gain by parsing GitLab Issues and Jira exports into formatted Word documents.
- Utilized: Vite, React, Python, TypeScript, Node.js, PostgreSQL, Terraform, AWS CDK, Step Functions, EventBridge, Lambda, SQS, SNS, CloudWatch, API Gateway, ECS, S3, Docker, GitLab CI/CD

Software Development Engineer   **Xcellent Technology Solutions**   **Aug 2024 - Jan 2025**

- Rebuilt legacy job processing into event-driven workflows using Step Functions, SQS with DLQ, and SNS, reducing operational overhead and improving scalability through automated EC2 instance management with warm pools.
- Converted Terraform infrastructure to AWS CDK, implemented IaC for AWS Secrets management, and consolidated 1,400+ lines of redundant code while introducing dynamic environment variables across dev, staging, and production.
- Standardized CI/CD pipelines across repositories, created onboarding documentation, integrated Tidelift for automated dependency management, and pursued AWS Developer Associate certification.
- Utilized: React, Python, TypeScript, Node.js, Material UI, PostgreSQL, Terraform, AWS CDK, Step Functions, EventBridge, Lambda, SQS, SNS, CloudWatch, CloudFormation, API Gateway, ECS, S3, Docker, GitLab CI/CD, VSCode, SharePoint, Jira

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GIS React Developer   **Xcellent Technology Solutions**   **Nov 2023 - Aug 2024**

- Guided dependency and platform standardization across 30+ applications, introducing shared templates, accessibility improvements, and consistent branding while establishing best practices for Node, React, and Python versions.
- Re-architected a metrics dashboard with DynamoDB, API Gateway, Step Functions, and Lambda for real-time insights into US Topo, LPC, and MRLC product usage.
- Created an end-to-end COG processing pipeline for Digital Surface Models with queue orchestration, raster processing, error handling, and notifications.
- Built Sumo Logic and CloudFront dashboards to identify application errors, traffic anomalies, and security concerns.
- Authored onboarding documentation and presented regular architecture walkthroughs to support team knowledge sharing.
- Utilized: React, Redux, JavaScript, TypeScript, Node.js, Python, AWS CDK, Step Functions, EventBridge, Lambda, SQS, SNS, CloudWatch, API Gateway, S3, GitLab CI/CD, Bootstrap, VS Code, Sumo Logic, Jira, ESRI ArcPro, GDAL, DynamoDB

Lead Software Engineer   **Success Rocket**   **Nov 2023 - Aug 2024**

- Managed end-to-end delivery of application from MVP to production, balancing rapid iteration with engineering best practices. Interviewed and led a team of 4.
- Translated business and customer requirements into scalable technical solutions while advocating for performance, security, and maintainability.
- Coordinated priorities, timelines, and deliverables across multiple concurrent projects and stakeholders.
- Utilized: React, Redux, JavaScript, Node.js, Yarn, Firebase, Git, GitHub, Bootstrap, VS Code

Selected Experience

Software Developer   **LivestockCity**

- Built reusable React-Native UI components, led code reviews, reduced post-release defects by 30%, and collaborated closely with backend teams on API integrations.

Independent Software Developer / Business Owner   **Instant Entity**

- Delivered hundreds of web projects, managed clients and freelancers, and adapted quickly in fast-paced, ambiguous environments.

Education

Full-Stack Web Development Certificate   **Fullstack Academy**

Dual Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science & Geographic Information Systems   **Austin Peay State University**

Professional Development

Terraform for AWS - Beginner to Expert   **Sept 2024**

Software Architecture and Design of Modern Large-Scale Systems   **Aug 2024**

AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner   **June 2024**

Previous certifications are viewable on LinkedIn profile