

UPENDRA KUMAR

Azure Platform and Migration Architecture Lead | Landing Zones (CAF/ALZ) | Secure Networking, Governance and Delivery

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

- Professional Services Delivery Architect with 19+ years delivering cloud and infrastructure programs across BFSI, healthcare, and enterprise clients.
- Design authority for secure, governed Azure platforms, including Azure Landing Zones delivered at scale across 11 subscriptions (management groups, subscription strategy, RBAC, Azure Policy initiatives, and enterprise guardrails).
- Architecture depth across networking (VNet/NSG/UDR, hub-spoke, Azure Firewall, ExpressRoute/VPN, Private Link, Private DNS, DNS Resolver, Application Gateway WAF) and security (Entra ID/Azure AD patterns, Key Vault, Defender for Cloud, Microsoft Sentinel, Zero Trust patterns).
- Owns HLD/LLD, architecture roadmaps, estimations, conceptual diagrams, and design governance. Delivery is executed with cloud engineering and DevOps teams.
- People manager experience (formal performance and appraisal ownership). Presales contributor for technical discovery and solution validation for ~\$5M+ opportunities.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Azure enterprise architecture and landing zones (CAF/ALZ), governance and operating model inputs
- Multi-subscription, multi-region program delivery; architecture review boards and decision governance
- Secure network architecture: hub-spoke, VNet peering, NSG/UDR, Azure Firewall, ExpressRoute/VPN, Private Link and DNS patterns
- Identity and security architecture: Entra ID/Azure AD patterns, privileged access design, Key Vault, Defender for Cloud, Sentinel onboarding approach
- Cloud migration architecture: assessment and readiness, dependency mapping, wave planning, cutover/rollback governance (Azure Migrate, ASR)
- Stakeholder workshops and delivery leadership; mentoring architects and engineers (15+)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Governance: Management Groups, subscription strategy, RBAC, Azure Policy/Initiatives, tagging standards, cost governance (budgets, chargeback/showback inputs)

Networking: VNet, NSG, UDR, hub-spoke, VNet peering, Azure Firewall, ExpressRoute, VPN Gateway, Application Gateway (WAF), Private Link, Private DNS zones, DNS Resolver

Security: Entra ID (Azure AD) patterns, privileged access design, Key Vault, Defender for Cloud, Microsoft Sentinel, security baselines, threat modeling, Zero Trust architecture

Migration/DR: Azure Migrate, ASR (Site Recovery), availability and DR design patterns, cutover planning and rollback governance

IaC / CI/CD (architecture oversight): Defines standards and reference patterns for Terraform and pipelines; reviews module designs/plans and release requirements delivered by engineering teams

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rackspace Technology | Professional Services Delivery Architect | Oct 2022 - Present | India

- Led enterprise Azure landing zone and migration deliveries across networking, identity, security, and governance using CAF/ALZ.
- Owned assessment-to-execution outputs: application portfolio assessment, right-sizing inputs, BOM/TCO inputs, and migration wave plans.
- Produced client-ready artifacts: HLD/LLD, target-state architecture decks, implementation roadmaps, migration runbooks, and pre/post cutover checklists.
- Designed and governed secure foundations: hub-spoke, VNet/NSG/UDR, Azure Firewall, ExpressRoute/VPN, Private Link, Private DNS zones, DNS Resolver, and App Gateway WAF patterns.
- Defined security architecture patterns and onboarding approach for Key Vault, Defender for Cloud, and Microsoft Sentinel. Partnered with engineering teams for implementation.
- Ran architecture and operational readiness reviews aligned to Azure Well-Architected. Converted findings into a prioritized remediation backlog with owners and timelines.
- Facilitated stakeholder workshops (platform, security, apps) to unblock key decisions and align on target state and delivery plan.
- Mentored architects and engineers (15+). Standardized patterns, checklists, and review gates to reduce rework and improve delivery predictability.
- Presales contribution: technical discovery and solution validation for multiple opportunities totaling ~\$5M+ deal value.

Cognizant Technology Solutions | Sr. Infra Architect | Jun 2022 - Oct 2022 | Noida, India

- Contributed to infrastructure and cloud architecture workstreams, including discovery, solution validation, and HLD/LLD inputs for enterprise environments.
- Worked with cross-functional stakeholders to support transition planning, operational readiness, and documentation for delivery handover.

Rackspace Technology | Professional Services Delivery Architect | Oct 2020 - Jun 2022 | India

- Delivered Azure foundation and migration architecture artifacts (HLD/LLD, reference patterns, implementation roadmaps) for regulated and enterprise clients.
- Defined repeatable secure baseline patterns across governance (management groups, RBAC, policy initiatives) and networking (hub-spoke, private access, DNS).
- Led design reviews and stakeholder workshops to align target state, manage risks, and drive decision closure across platform, security, and application teams.

Accenture | Tech Lead (Cloud Architect - Tech Lead, Intelligent Cloud Infrastructure) | Jun 2019 - Oct 2020 | Gurugram, India

- Served as Azure SME and tech lead, guiding clients from discovery through target architecture, build readiness, and go-live/hypercare.
- Led technical discovery workshops to capture current state, target state, risks, and migration approach.
- Designed Azure infrastructure and landing-zone foundations across identity, networking, security, and governance. Produced HLD/LLD and implementation plans.
- Managed delivery teams across geographies, with formal performance/appraisal ownership for direct reports.
- Standardized architecture governance (design reviews, guardrails, and reference patterns) to improve cross-team alignment and delivery predictability.

HCL Technologies | Associate Consultant | Apr 2014 - May 2019 | Noida, India

- Delivered modernization and migration planning for enterprise workloads, focusing on low-risk cutover approaches and operational readiness.
- Worked with client stakeholders on target-state designs, runbooks, and governance practices to improve stability and operational efficiency.
- People management responsibilities for direct reports (performance/appraisals) and mentoring for early-career engineers.

Atos IT Solutions (acquired Siemens IT Solutions) | System Engineer | Jul 2009 - Apr 2014 | Kolkata, India

- Delivered infrastructure operations and reliability support for European customers using standard incident, problem, and change practices.
- Improved incident triage and troubleshooting workflows through diagnostics and knowledge reuse.
- Supported monitoring, patching coordination, availability reporting, and capacity analysis.

Prior experience: Arya Omnitalk Wireless Solutions (Project Engineer), Commtel Networks (Site Engineer)

SELECTED CERTIFICATIONS

- Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert
- Microsoft Certified: Cybersecurity Architect Expert
- Microsoft Certified: DevOps Engineer Expert
- TOGAF 10 Practitioner (Enterprise Architecture)
- Google Cloud Certified: Professional Cloud Architect
- Aviatrix Certified Multicloud Network Associate (ACMNA)

Additional certifications (details on request/LinkedIn): Google Cloud Certified: Generative AI Leader (2025), Azure Administrator Associate, Azure Security Engineer Associate, Azure AI Engineer Associate, ITIL v3 Foundation.

EDUCATION

- PGDM (Operations Management), IMT Ghaziabad | Jul 2023 - Oct 2024
- B.E. (Electronics and Communication), Rajiv Gandhi Prodyogiki Vishwavidyalaya | 2002 - 2006

AWARDS

- Rackspace Fanatical Learner (199+ hours upskilling, 2025)
- Atos Champagne Spot Award
- Siemens Merit Reward and Outstanding Performance Award