

François-Xavier Cat

Staff Engineer, AI Platform Engineering · Azure · Platform Engineering · Infrastructure as Code · CI/CD · Automation

United States · lazywinadmin.com · linkedin.com/in/fxcat · github.com/lazywinadmin

Summary

Staff platform engineer with 19 years in infrastructure, the last 7 focused on Azure and Infrastructure as Code. At Ares I build the Terraform control plane, governance as code, and landing-zone guardrails other teams build on, and I now work on AI platform engineering. Microsoft MVP 2014 - 2022 and author of lazywinadmin.com.

Skills

- **Cloud and platform:** Microsoft Azure, Azure Policy, Kubernetes (AKS), Docker, Helm, Databricks, Linux
- **Infrastructure as Code:** Terraform / Terraform Cloud, ARM, Ansible, Packer
- **CI/CD:** Azure DevOps, GitHub Enterprise / GitHub Actions, JFrog Artifactory
- **Languages:** PowerShell, Python, Go
- **Security and observability:** Chef InSpec, Splunk, Cribl

Experience

Ares Management

Remote, United States

Staff Engineer, AI Platform Engineering · Sep 2026 – Present

Staff Engineer, Cloud Engineering · Dec 2024 – Sep 2026

- Built a Terraform control plane for vNets, Azure Firewall, Private DNS, vWAN and new-region core services
- Delivered governance as code: Azure Policy, custom RBAC, landing-zone guardrails and auto-remediation
- Authored reusable Terraform modules for networking, private endpoints, connectivity and SaaS
- Managed Databricks as code: Unity Catalog, SCIM, serverless network policies and SAT hardening
- Driving landing zones as code (in progress)
- Trained Cloud engineers on Platform Engineering pipelines and modules

Staff Engineer, Platform Engineering · Dec 2023 – Dec 2024

- Greenfield Infrastructure as Code, environments on demand and containerization
- Self-hosted Azure DevOps and GitHub Actions agents on AKS
- Policy as code with Terraform

Lead Engineer, Platform Engineering · Jan 2023 – Dec 2023

- Terraform modules; migrated an on-premises application to AKS
- Databricks Unity Catalog infrastructure

Lead Engineer, DevOps Engineering · Jun 2021 – Jan 2023

- Migrated ARM templates to Terraform; AKS migration
- Self-hosted build agents on VM Scale Sets (Packer, Ansible, Terraform)

Morgan Stanley

San Francisco Bay Area / Montreal

Cloud Engineer · Dec 2019 – May 2021

- Landing zones as Infrastructure as Code, auto-remediation and security blueprints; on-call rotation
- Terraform, ARM, Ansible, PowerShell, Python, Go, Azure DevOps

Systems Engineer · Jul 2018 – Dec 2019 · San Francisco Bay Area

- Orchestrated Windows 10 deployment; Chef / DSC proof of concept
- Windows containers on OpenShift
- Ran monthly PowerShell workshops

Automation Specialist · Apr 2016 – Jul 2018 · Montreal

- Automated Windows Server deployment via API; service catalog
- PSScriptAnalyzer rules and Pester testing

WB Games Montreal

Senior System Administrator · Jun 2014 – Apr 2016

- Infrastructure automation with System Center (SCCM, SCSM, SCORCH) and Cireson
- Automated onboarding and offboarding; SQL cluster
- Moved SCSM / SCORCH workloads to Azure

Domtar

Montreal

Infrastructure Administrator · Feb 2013 – Jun 2014

System Administrator · Jun 2009 – Feb 2013

- Supported 800 Windows servers, 40 ESXi hosts and 25+ sites
- Wrote a PowerShell VMware disaster-recovery script; upgraded to SCCM 2012 R2; SCORCH
- Automated SOX audit reporting

Inovestor Inc.

Montreal

System Administrator · Aug 2007 – Jun 2009

- Hyper-V P2V migration, Cisco VoIP, Google Apps migration

Earlier experience

Network Administrator

- Supported servers, desktops, phones, databases, virtualization and backups; helpdesk and provider contracts
- Started automating with VBScript and Monad (PowerShell) around 2006

Education

- **AEC, Computer Sciences: Network Security** — ISI Montreal — 2005 - 2007
- **BTS, Network Administrator** — CFAI Sifor Oise — 2002 - 2004

Certifications

- Microsoft MVP Alumni — Microsoft — 2023
- Microsoft Certified: Azure AI Fundamentals (AI-900) — Microsoft — 2022
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900) — Microsoft — 2020
- VMware Certified Professional 5 - Data Center Virtualization (VCP5-DCV) — VMware — 2013
- *Previously held (expired)*: Azure Solutions Architect Expert (2022), DevOps Engineer Expert AZ-400 (2021), Azure Administrator Associate AZ-104 (2020)

Awards

Award	Authority	Year
Most Valuable Professional (Windows PowerShell; Cloud and Datacenter Management)	Microsoft	2014 - 2022
SAPIEN MVP	SAPIEN Technologies	2015
PowerShell Hero	PowerShell.org	2014

Community

- **Founder and organizer**, [French PowerShell User Group](#) (online)
- **Founder and organizer**, [Montreal PowerShell User Group](#) (in person)
- **Author**, [LazyWinAdmin blog](#): PowerShell, Azure, DevOps and automation
- **Open source**: public projects on [GitHub](#)

Languages

- French — native
- English — full professional proficiency