

ADAM FITZWATER

Platform Architect | Cloud-Native Solutions Architect | AWS Serverless

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Platform Architect with 12+ years of experience designing and delivering cloud-native, event-driven enterprise systems across the life insurance and financial services industry. Currently lead the architecture of Lincoln Financial Group's next-generation Life Insurance and Annuity platform on Amazon Web Services (AWS), a distributed ecosystem of 30+ serverless microservices powering the company's retail product pipeline. Proven track record progressing from hands-on financial modeling and actuarial calculation engines to leading cross-functional engineering teams and setting enterprise-scale architecture direction. Combine deep insurance domain expertise with modern cloud engineering across serverless design, infrastructure as code, CI/CD, and microservices.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Cloud & AWS: AWS Lambda, Amazon API Gateway, Amazon DynamoDB, Amazon SQS/SNS, Amazon S3, AWS Step Functions, Amazon CloudWatch, AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM), AWS CloudFormation, AWS Cloud Development Kit (CDK)

Architecture: Serverless Architecture, Microservices Architecture, Event-Driven Systems, Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA), RESTful API Design, Enterprise Software Architecture, Platform Modernization & Legacy Migration

Languages: Python, JavaScript / Node.js, Java, C#, VB.NET, VPMS (DXC), SQL

DevOps & IaC: Infrastructure as Code (AWS CloudFormation, AWS CDK), CI/CD Pipeline Design, GitLab CI/CD, GitHub Actions, AWS CLI, Observability & Monitoring (Amazon CloudWatch)

Data & Storage: Amazon DynamoDB, Microsoft SQL Server, NoSQL Databases

Testing & Quality: pytest, unittest, moto (AWS mocking), coverage.py, JUnit, Jasmine, Mocha, Unit & Integration Testing, Automated Testing Frameworks

Security & Compliance: AWS IAM Least-Privilege Design, Data Encryption (at rest & in transit), Secure API Design, Insurance Regulatory Compliance, SOC 2 Awareness

Leadership & Process: Agile / Scrum, DevOps Practices, Technical Team Leadership, Architecture Review & Design, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Technical Mentorship

Domain Expertise: Life Insurance & Annuity Systems, FAST by Verisk (Policy Administration), Financial Modeling & Actuarial Calculations, Business Analysis & Requirements

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Platform Architect, NextGen Retail

Lincoln Financial Group | Columbus, OH (Remote)

Jan 2024 – Present

- Architect and build the serverless application layer for the next-generation Life Insurance and Annuity retail platform on AWS, leveraging Lambda, SQS, API Gateway, DynamoDB, S3, Step Functions, SNS, IAM, and CloudFormation.
- Decompose complex multi-system integrations into 30+ independently deployable microservices, optimizing for scalability, cost-efficiency, and operational resilience across the platform.
- Lead the technical implementation of the FAST platform (by Verisk), an industry-leading life and annuity policy administration system, as the foundation for all new products, including planning legacy-to-cloud product conversions.
- Drive architectural decisions across the entire NextGen Retail release train of 10 pods, ensuring consistency in design patterns, integration standards, and technical direction across teams.
- Define CI/CD pipelines and infrastructure-as-code standards using GitLab CI/CD and AWS CloudFormation, enabling rapid, reliable, and repeatable deployments across environments.
- Lead multiple cross-functional teams of up to 6 engineers, fostering code quality, architecture best practices, and continuous learning through hands-on mentorship.
- Implement observability and monitoring with Amazon CloudWatch, enabling proactive system health tracking and rapid incident response across distributed services.

Senior Software Engineer / Technical Lead, NextGen Retail

Lincoln Financial Group | Columbus, OH (Remote)

Sep 2021 – Jan 2024

- Served as technical lead of an agile pod, owning service design, API contracts, and integration patterns across internal and external systems.
- Expanded the FAST integration layer and led the design of new serverless microservices connecting FAST to Lincoln's broader enterprise ecosystem.

- Drove adoption of serverless patterns and infrastructure as code, establishing architectural standards later adopted across the wider NextGen Retail release train, and represented the team in cross-pod architecture discussions.
- Partnered with product owners, business analysts, and actuarial teams to align technical delivery with business requirements, regulatory constraints, and compliance standards.
- Mentored junior and mid-level engineers on AWS services, Python best practices, clean code, and microservices design patterns.

Software Engineer, NextGen Retail

Lincoln Financial Group | Columbus, OH

Mar 2021 – Sep 2021

- Helped establish the foundational integration between the FAST platform (by Verisk) and Lincoln's existing life insurance administration systems.
- Built initial serverless connectivity layers using AWS Lambda and Python that became the backbone of the platform's integration architecture.
- Demonstrated technical depth leading to promotion to Technical Lead within 6 months.

Software Engineer / Financial Modeler

Lincoln Financial Group | Columbus, OH

Aug 2016 – Mar 2021

- Owned design, development, and maintenance of all financial calculations for the life insurance product portfolio using VPMS (DXC), a proprietary functional calculation engine.
- Built and maintained service-layer interfaces enabling upstream and downstream systems to interact with the calculation engine for accurate premium, reserve, and benefit computations.
- Designed automated testing frameworks in Python to validate actuarial accuracy, reducing manual testing effort and increasing release confidence.
- Partnered closely with actuaries and business stakeholders to translate complex actuarial requirements into production-ready calculation logic.

Watson Software Engineer

IBM | Dublin, OH

Jun 2015 – Aug 2016

- Designed, developed, and supported applications used to train IBM Watson's cognitive products, focusing on conversational and Q&A engagement systems.
- Built a mobile-first, RESTful, multi-tenant prototype to train and monitor Watson using AngularJS, Node.js, and NoSQL with service-oriented design.
- Collaborated within an internationally distributed agile squad, enhancing and maintaining production Java applications for Watson Engagement Advisor with comprehensive test coverage via JUnit, Jasmine, and Mocha, deployed to IBM Bluemix (now IBM Cloud).

Software Development Consultant

IBM | Columbus, OH

Jun 2013 – Jun 2015

- Consulted for a Fortune 500 insurance company on its life insurance policy management system as a permanent member of an agile development line.
- Developed and enhanced functionality for new and existing life insurance products on a desktop and batch-flow application, frequently taking a lead development role and reducing system risk across downstream data feeds.
- Built applications using C#, VB.NET, and Microsoft SQL Server with object-oriented design principles, validating actuarial calculations with business representatives and actuaries.

IT Consultant

Fitzwater Furniture | Oakland, MD

Sep 2008 – Sep 2013

- Led a business-wide digital transformation for a family-owned furniture company, automating major business processes, designing a client-server network architecture, and implementing a Point of Sale system end-to-end from configuration through training and go-live support.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), Management Information Systems & Finance

Ohio University, Athens, OH

2013

Delta Sigma Pi (professional business fraternity) • Foreign Exchange Trading Group

CERTIFICATIONS

- Associate, Life Management Institute (ALMI), LOMA, 2020
- AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate, Amazon Web Services (In Progress)