

JOHN WILHELM

Senior Cloud Architect | Azure Solutions Architect Expert

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SUMMARY

Cloud architect with nearly 30 years in technology, including 11+ years in infrastructure and cloud engineering. Designs secure, governed Azure environments that balance performance, compliance, and cost. Cut Azure spend at D&W Fine Pack by more than 50% (~\$40K to under \$20K per month) through stakeholder-led utilization analysis, reservations, and resource scheduling, without disrupting 24x7 manufacturing operations. Built repeatable governance models that supported acquisition-driven growth at Crash Champions. Brings multi-client delivery experience from MSP work and from running concurrent client projects as a business owner. Explains complex technical decisions clearly to executives and non-technical stakeholders. Available for immediate start; open to contract, contract-to-hire, and full-time engagements.

CERTIFICATIONS

- **Cloud and Infrastructure**
 - Microsoft Certified: Azure Solutions Architect Expert (AZ-305) | Sep 2026
 - Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate (AZ-104) | Renewed Aug 2026
 - Microsoft Certified: Azure Data Fundamentals (DP-900) | Mar 2026
 - CompTIA Cloud+ | Renewed Mar 2026
 - Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals (AZ-900) | Sep 2022
- **Systems and Security Foundations:** CompTIA Security+ (Feb 2022) · LPI Linux Essentials (Oct 2022) · CompTIA Network+ (Jun 2017) · CompTIA A+ (Apr 2017)
- **IT Governance & Methodology:** ITIL Foundation (Nov 2023) · CompTIA Project+ (Oct 2023)

CORE SKILLS

- **Architecture & Design:** Azure Solutions Architecture · Cloud Architecture · Landing Zones · Solution Design · Hybrid Cloud
- **Cost & FinOps:** Azure Cost Management · Reservations · Resource Scheduling · Storage and Database Right-Sizing · Data Archiving · Microsoft 365 License Optimization · Vendor Negotiation
- **Governance, Security & Identity:** Azure Policy · RBAC · Microsoft Entra ID · Managed Identities · Azure Key Vault · Azure Firewall · Private Link/Endpoint · Group Policy
- **Infrastructure & Networking:** Azure Networking · Azure Virtual Desktop/VDI · High Availability · Disaster Recovery · Azure Site Recovery · Hyper-V · VMware vSphere · Meraki
- **Automation & Operations:** PowerShell · Bicep · Infrastructure as Code · GitHub Actions · Azure DevOps · CI/CD · Azure Monitor · Log Analytics (KQL)
- **Working Knowledge (lab / academic):** Microsoft Fabric · Azure Synapse Analytics · Azure Databricks · Delta Lake · Azure Data Factory · Terraform · ETL/ELT
- **Emerging:** Agentic AI / Multi-Agent System Design (OpenClaw)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professional Development — Independent

Jan 2026 – Present

- Completed B.S. in Cloud Computing (Western Governors University) and earned the Azure Solutions Architect Expert (AZ-305) certification.
- Built hands-on lab experience with Microsoft Fabric, including OneLake storage, lakehouse architecture, and ETL workflows.

Cloud Solutions Architect / Azure Engineer — Crash Champions, Westmont, IL

Mar 2022 – Jan 2026

- Architected and deployed a standardized "Shop in a Box" infrastructure model, enabling rapid, repeatable, and secure integration of newly acquired locations onto corporate Azure landing zones.
- Owned infrastructure design decisions balancing performance, security boundaries, and cloud cost across production environments.
- Designed and scaled an Azure-based Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI), migrating active workloads to retire legacy on-premises machines while working within licensing constraints.
- Designed and enforced governance frameworks with Azure Policy and RBAC to meet compliance baselines and standardize infrastructure.
- Engineered an automated remediation for a critical multi-site Meraki network failure, restoring service in hours versus a vendor-projected two days.

- Coordinated a 100-server migration from VMware ESXi to bare-metal Windows Server hosts across shop locations, aligning resources, on-site technicians, and shop communications.
- Developed PowerShell automation frameworks to improve deployment consistency and eliminate manual configuration.

Senior IT Infrastructure Engineer — D&W Fine Pack, Wood Dale, IL **Jul 2019 – Mar 2022**

- Reduced Azure spend by more than 50% (~\$40K/month to under \$20K/month) in three months through stakeholder-led utilization analysis: archived dormant data, scheduled off-hours shutdowns, applied reservations to steady-state workloads, and right-sized storage and databases, with no disruption to 24x7 manufacturing ERP.
- Tiered Microsoft 365 licensing by user role (E5 for executives, E3 for power users, E1/email-only for shop floor) and used headcounts to negotiate vendor contract terms.
- Led infrastructure modernization, replacing aging on-premises systems with more durable, scalable Azure-based solutions while maintaining a 24x7 manufacturing ERP.
- Automated administrative tasks and platform deployments with PowerShell; managed Group Policy, Azure compliance policy, and Endpoint Configuration Manager.
- Administered Active Directory, Meraki, Cisco Umbrella, Mimecast, and Office 365 to support hybrid cloud integration.

Senior Infrastructure Engineer (Contract) — Interactive Business Systems, Chicago Area **Mar 2019 – Jul 2019**

- Built out the client's Azure environment, including multi-slot web apps integrated with SQL Server Enterprise VMs to provide development, test, staging, and production environments.
- Transitioned virtualization from Hyper-V to VMware ESX and upgraded servers to Windows Server 2016.

Systems Administrator / Engineer (Contract) — Robert Half Technology, Oak Brook Terrace, IL **Jun 2018 – Feb 2019**

- Enabled single sign-on between Azure and DocuSign and resolved Azure VM replication and Office 365 issues for a capital management client.
- Resolved Server 2012 failover cluster issues and validated cluster durability through failover testing for a public safety client.
- Documented a client's full server, network, firewall, and vSphere estate, and trained the incoming systems administrator.

Windows Systems Administrator / Engineer — Strategic Solutions, Inc. (MSP), Oak Brook, IL **Dec 2015 – May 2018**

- Supported 6 managed-services clients (a Fortune 500 automotive/tire enterprise with 2,200 retail locations and 5 smaller organizations) across vSphere, Veeam replication and recovery, and Office 365; mentored tier-1 staff.
- Designed high-availability private cloud architecture for the enterprise client's retail network, spanning three generations of HP Hyper-V clusters connected to SAN storage.
- Designed and built a custom remote interface enabling HP WYSIWYG tablets to work with local shop Remote Desktop environments.
- Authored Group Policy configurations to support wide-scale Remote Desktop Services (RDS) deployment across the retail locations.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Windows Engineer — Medix **Mar 2015 – Dec 2015**

IT Security Research Engineer / Windows Systems Engineer (Contract) — Robert Half Technology **Jul 2014 – Apr 2015**

President / Project Manager — John Wilhelmi Consulting, Inc., Naperville, IL **Mar 2009 – Oct 2014**

- Founded and ran a commercial audio-visual construction firm serving churches and religious institutions across the Chicago area, managing up to 4 concurrent client projects (\$20K to \$200K) from bid through close-out.

Application Developer / Engineer — Bentron, Fox River Graphics, Integrated Control Experts **Apr 1996 – Mar 2008**

PROJECTS

Multi-Agent AI Development Platform (Private)

- Designed and operate a self-hosted, seven-agent AI system (OpenClaw) spanning architecture, build, operations, commerce, and finance roles to develop a financial analysis platform for financial professionals.

Cloud Migration Architecture — Content Data System (WGU Capstone)

- Designed an enterprise Azure migration architecture for a desktop-based financial planning application: Data Factory and Synapse Analytics pipeline into a Bronze/Silver/Gold lakehouse, security model, multi-region DR, FinOps cost projections, and Agile delivery plan.

EDUCATION

B.S., Cloud Computing — Western Governors University

Aug 2021 – Mar 2026