SEAMUS McBRIDE

Senior Cloud, Security & PKI Architect

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PROFILE

Cloud and security architect with 25+ years delivering enterprise infrastructure, Azure migration, identity and security programmes across banking, government and global organisations. Combines architecture leadership with hands-on delivery across Azure, Microsoft 365, security operations, PKI and machine identity. Recent work includes a three-year Tier-1 banking programme, five-year enterprise cloud strategies, and HSM-backed PKI and Azure services built with managed identity and operational controls.

CORE EXPERTISE

- Azure architecture and enterprise migration: landing zones, IaaS/PaaS, hybrid and multi-datacentre environments
- Enterprise PKI and machine identity: AD CS, offline roots, HSM-backed issuing CAs and certificate lifecycle automation
- Cloud security and operations: Entra ID, Microsoft Sentinel, Defender, monitoring, disaster recovery and runbooks
- Secure delivery and automation: Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions, approval gates, PowerShell, Python and Terraform

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Cloud, Security & PKI Consultant *Jul 2024 – Present*

- Azure cloud SME on five-year cloud strategy engagements for enterprise clients in the pharmaceutical and public sectors.
- Architecture oversight and design sign-off for tender, aligning transformation goals with business objectives and delivery constraints.
- For a regulated-sector client: designed and ran a two-tier PKI with an encrypted offline root and an HSM-backed issuing CA in Azure Key Vault Premium, using managed identity and no stored application secrets.
- Built parallel PKI modernisation environments for client programmes (four modules, 36 automated acceptance tests covering renewal, rollback, CA recovery and post-quantum readiness), plus an Azure Functions service using Azure AI Foundry.

Client names are withheld under non-disclosure agreements. I am happy to discuss the work at interview within those limits.

Career break *Jan 2024 – Jun 2024*

Planned time out after a three-year banking programme; family time.

Cloud & Security Architect, Tier-1 retail bank *Jan 2021 – Dec 2023*

Three-year programme within the bank's group-wide cloud strategy.

- Part of the architecture team delivering the Azure migration strategy for enterprise infrastructure in a regulated financial environment.
- Helped design and implement Microsoft 365 services for 10,000+ users, integrated with Azure identity and security services.

- Consulted on the move to Microsoft Sentinel and the Defender suite, including multi-cloud onboarding, threat detection, monitoring and compliance reporting.
- Helped develop secure hybrid solutions across Azure IaaS and PaaS while working directly with senior stakeholders on transformation priorities.

SELECTED EARLIER ENGAGEMENTS 2004 TO 2020

Full detail available on request.

- Higher-education institution (2018–2020): planned the Azure migration of three datacentres with 2,000+ servers; delivered cloud productivity, SSO, MFA and hybrid identity for a large student and staff population.
- Online gaming and betting operator (2015–2017): Azure migration and CI/CD pipelines using TFS, Octopus and Jenkins for a high-volume transaction platform.
- International lottery operator (2015–2016, concurrent): real-time threat-intelligence auditing across EMEA and North American networks in an ISO 27001 and PCI environment.
- Global IT services company (2012–2015): enterprise infrastructure projects, design and delivery, with responsibility from discovery through handover.
- State-owned Irish financial institution (2011–2012): 500+ security remediations, disaster-recovery redesign and a 500-server directory migration.
- Irish government department (2010–2011): secure directory, messaging, backup and disaster-recovery infrastructure for the department, its agencies and cross-government systems.
- Global IT outsourcer, UK (2004–2010): Active Directory design for a national defence organisation, data-centre migration for a global manufacturer, and technical training for support engineers.

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

Identity and PKI: AD CS, Entra ID, Azure Key Vault, Managed HSM, Thales HSM, CyberArk, HashiCorp Vault, ACME/EST and crypto-agility planning

Azure: landing zones, IaaS/PaaS, Azure Functions, managed identity, Azure Policy, Defender for Cloud, Arc and Azure AI Foundry

Security and Microsoft 365: Microsoft Sentinel, Defender XDR, Purview, DLP, SSO, MFA, hybrid identity and Copilot governance

DevOps and automation: Azure DevOps, GitHub Actions, Terraform, PowerShell, Python, Ansible, approval gates and CI/CD

Operations and governance: runbooks, monitoring, disaster recovery, incident and failure logs, DORA, NIS2, ISO 27001 and PCI DSS

TECHNICAL WRITING

Converged Trust Architecture (in development, 2026): an enterprise PKI and machine-identity series covering third-party and Microsoft technology stacks, cloud PKI, HSMs, certificate lifecycle automation, post-quantum readiness and governance.