

Phillip Tarrant

AI Solutions Architect & Technical Leader | Enterprise AI Strategy, Cloud Architecture & Automation

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Senior technical leader with 20+ years designing and delivering enterprise AI, automation, and data architectures — translating business problems into scalable, secure AI solutions from strategy through production. Leads architecture decisions across LLM platforms (Anthropic, OpenAI, AWS Bedrock), RAG systems on vector databases, agentic workflows, cloud infrastructure (AWS, Azure), APIs, and data pipelines. Architected AI automation that auto-closed 47% of 3,500 weekly tickets with zero human touch; led a 17-person engineering/DFIR/Red Team org and mentors engineers on AI architecture best practices.

Career Experience

Principal Engineer — AI Architecture & Automation TopBuild Corp, Remote *Mar 2026 – Present*
Own technical direction and architecture for the enterprise AI and automation program — from strategy and solution design through production delivery.

- Architected and built a production full-stack platform (Flask/Python REST APIs, JavaScript frontend) with 20+ integrations across Microsoft 365, CrowdStrike, Google SecOps, and ReliaQuest
- Design reusable automation frameworks and intelligent agent workflows as shared platform capabilities; advise leadership on build-vs-buy decisions for AI tools and infrastructure
- Set architecture standards, secure-coding, and CI/CD practices; author technical documentation, system diagrams, and data-flow designs
- Own AI development and data/logging architecture across the enterprise security program
- Mentor engineers on AI architecture best practices and guide proofs-of-concept from concept to production

Senior Architecture & Automation Consultant Confidential (Contract), Remote *Jan 2025 – Mar 2026*

Delivered cloud/application architecture, automation, and technical advisory for defense, fintech, and MSSP clients across multiple environments.

- Designed secure cloud and application architectures and led architecture reviews across multiple enterprise tenants
- Built automation and API-driven integrations that streamlined vulnerability management and reporting for one of the largest US fintech clients
- Advised on compliance and secure-by-design practices (NIST 800-53, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, GDPR)

Director of Automation — prior: SOC Director → SOC Technical Manager Compuquip Cybersecurity, Tampa/Doral, Florida *Jan 2021 – Dec 2024*

Set and led AI technical strategy and architecture for a regulated MSSP — owning all AI development from discovery through production and adoption.

- Architected AI-powered automation (Python, AWS Lambda, LLMs) that processed 3,500 tickets weekly and auto-closed 47% with no human involvement
- Designed RAG systems on vector databases, LLM triage pipelines, and agentic workflows as reusable platform capabilities that accelerated every downstream initiative
- Built against LLM APIs (Anthropic, OpenAI) and AWS Bedrock; established AI governance — model evaluation, output validation, guardrails, and security controls

- Translated business requirements into technical roadmaps with business leaders and led build-vs-buy decisions for AI tooling
- Grew the client base from 16 to 52 and improved margin from 18% to 52% while leading a 17-person engineering, Red Team, and DFIR org

Sr. Security Architect Travel Syndication Technology (TST), Alpharetta, Georgia *Apr 2020 – Jan 2021*

Owled enterprise security architecture, automation tooling, and compliance across the organization.

- Owned security architecture and built custom automation and detection tooling
- Steered the organization through PCI and NIST 800-series audits; saved \$10,000+ through vendor negotiations

Cyber Security Engineer → Senior Cyber Security Engineer Intercontinental Exchange, Marietta, Georgia *Aug 2018 – Apr 2020*

Incident Response/Digital Forensics lead, promoted to the Architecture and Automation Team.

- Designed security data pipelines and automated triage tooling on the Architecture & Automation team
- Led critical multi-server incident investigations across three teams and mentored junior analysts

IT Leadership & Systems Administration Roles Earlier Experience *Jan 1999 – Aug 2018*

Progressive IT and technical leadership roles, including Technical Services Manager at the National Wild Turkey Federation — led 8 technicians and developers supporting 300+ staff, saved \$50,000+/year migrating 3rd-party tools in-house, and owned web/network/application architecture.

Education, Certifications, and Awards

GWAPT - Web Application Penetration Tester, GIAC, 2020

GCFA - Forensic Analyst, GIAC, 2019

GCIH - Incident Handler, GIAC, 2018

Lethal Forensicator Coin Winner, SANS/GIAC, 2019

SANS Challenge Coin for excellence in digital forensics

Associate in Network Administration, Virginia College, 2014 – 2016

GPA: 4.0

Technical Skills

AI/ML Architecture & Engineering: AI Solution Architecture, LLM Platforms (Anthropic, OpenAI, AWS Bedrock), RAG Systems, Vector Databases, Agentic AI & Agent Workflows, Prompt Engineering, AI Guardrails & Governance, Model Evaluation

Cloud & Data Architecture: AWS (Bedrock, Lambda), Azure, Oracle Cloud, Serverless, Data Pipelines, SQL / Databases, System Integration, Cloud-Native Deployment

Architecture & Technical Strategy: Solution Architecture, Technical Roadmaps, Build-vs-Buy Evaluation, Architecture Reviews, System & Data-Flow Design, Technical Documentation, Proof-of-Concept to Production

Software Engineering: Python, Flask, REST API Design, JavaScript, CI/CD, Docker, Kubernetes, Git, PowerShell, Bash

Security & Compliance: Enterprise Security, Secure Architecture, Authentication & Access Control, SIEM/SOAR, NIST 800-53, PCI-DSS, HIPAA, GDPR

Leadership & Collaboration: Technical Leadership, Team Leadership (17+ reports), Engineer & Architect Mentorship, Cross-Functional Partnership, Stakeholder Management