

Walter Riopedre

Senior Azure Infrastructure Architect | Principal Consultant, Golden Road Group LLC
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior Azure Infrastructure Architect with 27+ years building, securing, and migrating enterprise IT infrastructure in regulated industries — insurance, healthcare, and law enforcement. Specializes in greenfield Azure platform builds, Infrastructure as Code (Azure Bicep), Active Directory modernization, hybrid identity, Zero Trust security, and compliance-driven architecture. Delivers complete solutions from design through operations — no handoffs, no gaps. Proven record across SOX, HIPAA, CJIS, and GLBA environments. Bilingual: English / Spanish.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- Azure Infrastructure Architecture (Landing Zones, hub-spoke, multi-region)
- Infrastructure as Code — Azure Bicep, Azure Verified Modules (AVM), Azure DevOps CI/CD
- Identity & Zero Trust Security (Conditional Access, PIM, Defender for Identity)
- Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) & Windows 365
- Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity in Azure
- Active Directory & Hybrid Identity — 27+ years (NT4 -> AD -> Entra ID)
- Microsoft Intune & Autopilot — Windows, macOS, iOS, Android (1,000+ devices)
- Enterprise Networking — VNet, ExpressRoute, VPN Gateway, Private Endpoints
- Compliance: SOX HIPAA CJIS GLBA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Golden Road Group LLC -- Principal Consultant

Senior Azure Infrastructure Architect · Independent Consulting Practice · Tampa, FL

2022 – Present

Senior Cloud Engineer -- Slide Insurance (P&C Insurer)

April 2023 – Present

- Built complete Azure platform from greenfield for a growing P&C insurance carrier: hub-spoke network topology, Landing Zones, NSGs, Private Endpoints, and governance policies
- Developed enterprise Infrastructure as Code framework using Azure Bicep and Azure Verified Modules (AVM); built multi-environment CI/CD pipeline in Azure DevOps with CAF-compliant naming, tagging standards, and approval gates across Dev, UAT, and Production — migrating manually-managed Landing Zone environments to fully version-controlled, pipeline-driven deployments
- Deployed and manages Entra ID with Conditional Access policies, Privileged Identity Management (PIM), and Defender for Identity — full Zero Trust identity stack
- Deployed Microsoft Intune and Autopilot across 1,000+ devices (Windows, iOS, macOS) with compliance baselines, app protection policies, and automated enrollment
- Implemented Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and Windows 365 for distributed workforce with role-based access and FSLogix profile management
- Architected GLBA-compliant infrastructure; responsible for ongoing operations and continuous platform evolution

Infrastructure & Security Consultant -- Regional Sheriff's Office, Florida

2022 – Present (Ongoing)

- Performed comprehensive Active Directory assessment and remediation for a law enforcement environment with stringent FBI CJIS Security Policy requirements
- Implemented CJIS Security Policy hardening across all systems: MFA, device encryption, audit logging, privileged access controls, and network segmentation
- Prepared the environment for and successfully passed a live Justice Department internal CJIS audit — zero findings on areas under scope
- Retained as ongoing Windows infrastructure and Active Directory expert for continued environment management

Sr. Azure Infrastructure Architect -- Emperion (URAC-Accredited Healthcare IME Provider)

2023 – 2026

- Designed and built entire Azure infrastructure from scratch for a 24/7 global healthcare provider — no existing cloud footprint, greenfield delivery from day one

- Architected multi-region deployment (US East, US West, Asia Pacific) with geo-redundant networking, hub-spoke topology, Private Endpoints, and ExpressRoute for US offices
- Built complete identity and security stack: Entra ID, hybrid identity with Entra Connect, Conditional Access, PIM, Microsoft Defender for Cloud, and Defender for Identity
- Deployed Azure Virtual Desktop for remote workforce and Intune / Autopilot for 1,000+ devices (Windows, iOS, Android) across all global regions
- Implemented HIPAA-compliant architecture including encryption at rest and in transit, audit logging, role-based access, and data residency controls; supported URAC IME v2.0 certification and SOC 2 Type II audit readiness
- Engineered Azure-native disaster recovery with automated failover, RTO/RPO targets, and cross-region replication for 25,000+ provider network data
- Passed HIPAA and URAC IME v2.0 external audits with no material findings

Azure Consultant -- Insentra (Microsoft Solutions Partner)

September 2022 – April 2023

- Delivered Azure infrastructure projects for Insentra clients; focused on Azure IaaS, networking, and identity deployments
- Provided subject-matter expertise on Active Directory, Entra ID, and Microsoft 365 architecture engagements

UPC Insurance (NYSE: UPC) -- P&C Insurer

Senior Systems Engineer (promoted from Systems Engineer) · Tampa, FL

March 2019 – September 2022

- Hired specifically to resolve critical Active Directory issues in a NYSE-listed company; identified root causes, rebuilt AD architecture, and eliminated all outstanding AD problems within the first months
- Promoted to Senior Systems Engineer in recognition of AD remediation success and demonstrated infrastructure leadership
- Redesigned and hardened Active Directory to meet SOX audit requirements for a publicly-traded financial services company; environment successfully passed external SOX compliance review
- Built the business case and ROI analysis that convinced executive leadership to approve an Azure migration strategy — the company had no cloud presence at the time
- Built Azure Landing Zones from scratch (existing Azure setup was improperly configured); established hub-spoke architecture, naming conventions, tagging policies, RBAC, and governance baselines
- Led migration of 500+ servers from remote datacenters to Azure IaaS (VMware/Nutanix -> Azure) — zero downtime across the entire migration program
- Deployed Microsoft Intune for enterprise device management; integrated with Entra ID and Conditional Access policies
- All architecture designed to pass SOX external audit requirements — environment reviewed and cleared by external auditors

EARLIER CAREER -- CUBA (1996 – 2015)

Cuban Neuroscience Center

2006 – 2015

IT Director

- Built the entire IT infrastructure of the new headquarters from scratch — networks, servers, storage, and operations
- Selected, procured, and deployed all technology systems; managed international vendor relationships including Inycom (Spain)

ETECSA -- Cuban National Telecommunications Company

1996 – 2006

IT Director / Senior System Engineer

- Managed the national data network backbone and access networks for Cuba's national telecommunications provider
- NOC operations leadership; large-scale infrastructure design and engineering

Universidad de las Ciencias Informáticas (UCI) -- Cuba

~2003 – 2010

Professor of Computer Networks (concurrent with industry roles)

- Taught Computer Networks; served as thesis tutor for undergraduate and graduate students
- Students went on to careers as engineers, network administrators, and IT directors

EDUCATION & CREDENTIALS

MSc Telematics

Cuba

Professional Certifications

- PMP -- Project Management Professional
- CCNA -- Cisco Certified Network Associate
- ITIL v4
- VMware Certified
- CMNO