

# ASHWIN THANALAPATI

Senior Cloud Architect & Engineering Leader

Abu Dhabi, UAE

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Senior Cloud Architect and Engineering Leader with 20+ years of experience designing, scaling, and transforming enterprise platforms into AI-native, high-performance systems. Proven track record embedding GenAI integrations, achieving 100% platform uptime for 1.5+ years, and leading globally distributed teams across high-growth startups and Fortune 500 environments. Deep expertise in cloud architecture (AWS), DevOps, autonomous systems, and IoT — driven by a passion for engineering excellence and AI-accelerated delivery.

## CORE SKILLS

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**Architecture & Design:** Software Architecture, System Design, Scalability, Security, Reliability, Modularity

**AI & Emerging Tech:** GenAI Integration, AI-Assisted Workflows (Cursor, Windsurf), IoT, ML Platforms, Autonomous Systems

**DevOps & Infrastructure:** Cloud Architecture (AWS), CI/CD (Jenkins), Containerization, Automation, Infrastructure-as-Code

**Leadership:** Global Team Management, Mentoring, Cross-Functional Collaboration, Roadmap Execution

**Tools & Languages:** Python, Ruby on Rails, GitHub, PhantomJS, VMware

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Venture One** • Abu Dhabi, UAE

Senior Cloud Architect

Oct 2025 – Present

- Designed cloud-native orchestration architecture for autonomous vehicle and robotics systems, integrating AI-driven sensor processing and real-time decision-making pipelines.
- Owned end-to-end architecture decisions — conducting design reviews and guiding teams on secure, AI-native transformations that reduced operational overhead.
- Embedded GenAI tools (Cursor, Windsurf) into engineering workflows, automating code generation, refactoring, and QA to measurably improve delivery velocity.
- Collaborated across product, engineering, and leadership on roadmap execution and long-term platform strategy.

**Technology Innovation Institute (TII)** • Abu Dhabi, UAE

Senior Engineer – DevOps

May 2023 – Oct 2025

- Architected resilient, high-availability infrastructure for Autonomous Robotics R&D — including swarm robotics coordination and AI model deployment on mission-critical systems.
- Owned DevOps & infrastructure strategies across advanced research programs, integrating AI tooling to support autonomous systems and IoT at scale.
- Mentored engineering teams on architecture best practices, security, and AI-assisted development, building a culture of continuous improvement.

**CoLearn** • Abu Dhabi, UAE

Director of Engineering

Sep 2021 – May 2023

- Led engineering teams to build Tanya — an AI-based homework assistant supporting Math, Physics, Chemistry, and English — integrating GenAI for multi-subject tutoring and rapid iteration loops.
- Transformed legacy systems into modern AI-native architectures, achieving 100% platform uptime for 1.5+ years.
- Managed globally distributed remote teams, aligning product architecture with business goals while embedding AI workflows to accelerate velocity.
- Partnered with Product and Leadership to deliver predictable roadmap execution, balancing innovation with platform integrity.

**Self-Employed** • Bengaluru, India

*DevOps / Infrastructure Consultant*

Jan 2020 – Aug 2021

- Advised multiple clients on cloud migrations and architecture optimisations, delivering cost-efficient, scalable systems with AI-assisted automation.
- Served as Engineering Manager for a hyper-growth startup — architected subscription payment systems and lead capture tools, driving measurable customer base growth.

**Verloop** • Bengaluru, India

*DevOps Engineer*

Apr 2020 – Jan 2021

- Designed and implemented DevOps pipelines for a conversational AI platform, ensuring secure, scalable deployments in a remote-first environment.

**Zoomcar** • Bengaluru, India

*Associate Director of DevOps*

May 2018 – Nov 2019

- Headed DevOps and infrastructure teams, architecting scalable systems for a high-usage mobility platform with improved reliability and performance.

**Fybr** • Bengaluru, India

*VP SysOps*

Jul 2016 – May 2018

- Led data center operations for end-to-end IoT solutions, scaling AWS environments globally and automating pipelines into efficient, AI-ready frameworks.

**Freshdesk Inc.** • Chennai, India

*Release Manager*

Sep 2014 – Mar 2016

- Managed software staging, releases, and DB migrations for a leading SaaS platform during hyper-growth, reducing deployment times via Jenkins and RSpec automation.

**Earlier Career (2005 – 2014)**

- Tech Lead, Accenture, Chennai (2012–2014) — Automated build/release cycles from 3.5 hours to 45 min using VMware.
- Technology Lead, Infosys, Mysuru (2012) — Built PhantomJS-based automated testing pipelines integrated into CI/CD.
- Build Manager / Sr. Software Engineer, Vertu / Teleca, Bengaluru (2008–2012) — Configuration management and firmware releases for Nokia/Vertu mobile platforms.
- Senior Engineer, Sasken, Bengaluru (2006–2008) — Symbian platform integration and OEM testing.
- Software Engineer, Tech Mahindra (2005–2006) — POC development for Nokia and Motorola on S60/UIQ.

**EDUCATION**

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**Master's in Robotics** • Middlesex University, London, UK • In Progress — Expected Sep 2026

**Bachelor's in Computer Science** • Anna University, Chennai, India • 2001 – 2005

## ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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- Thought Leader: Author and presenter on emerging technologies, IoT, SysOps, and commercialisation strategies.
- Global Execution: Managed distributed engineering teams across India, UAE, and the UK in high-growth, fast-moving environments.
- Languages: English, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu (Native) • Kannada (Professional) • Malayalam, Italian (Elementary)