

Gene Ames

Forest Grove, OR | (503) 563-0440 | gene_r_ames@yahoo.com | [linkedin.com/in/ames-g](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ames-g) | blog.sema.cloud

Principal Cloud Architect | AWS Solutioning & Engineering | Distributed Systems

Hands-on cloud architect and principal engineer with 25+ years building enterprise systems across healthcare, finance, logistics, retail, and aerospace. Turn ambiguous platform goals into engineered systems with clear boundaries, measurable behavior, and production-shaped operations — secure multi-account AWS foundations, serverless platforms, GenAI/RAG workloads, data pipelines, identity boundaries, observability, and IaC.

Strong in AWS Organizations, Control Tower, IAM Identity Center, SCPs, CloudTrail, GuardDuty, Security Hub, Config, KMS, S3, Route 53, Lambda, Step Functions, SQS, SNS, API Gateway, Cognito, CloudFront, WAF, DynamoDB, Glue, Athena, Bedrock, OpenSearch, EKS, Terraform, CloudFormation, least-privilege IAM, CI/CD, and production support patterns.

Selected Professional Experience

CDW / IGW — Senior Solutions Architect & Cloud Engineer | Aug 2022 - Present

Delivered architecture and engineering for Fortune 500 banking, healthcare, and logistics clients. Built Spring Boot microservices on OpenShift and AWS EKS, migrated 100+ deployments from Octopus to Argo CD GitOps, architected migration of 64 applications to Azure, designed migration strategy for 1,200+ SQL Server databases to Azure SQL Managed Instances, supported 150+ pipeline migrations to Azure DevOps, and contributed to 50+ Tanzu-to-OpenShift application migrations.

Internal Solutioning: Built AWS reference architectures and implementations for cloud foundation, multi-tenant GenAI/RAG, serverless document processing, security governance, and Terraform module composition.

AWS Landing Zone Reference Architecture

- Developed a repeatable AWS landing zone process with requirements gathering, implementation checklists, runbooks, and a working reference architecture.
- Implemented governed OUs, centralized audit logging, delegated security aggregation, DNS, cost controls, cross-region Terraform state, and SCP guardrails for region, identity, storage, encryption, metadata, and cost-risk controls.

Multi-Tenant GenAI/RAG Reference Implementation

- Built Tenant Lens as a reference implementation for tenant-isolated RAG using Cognito-authenticated queries, tenant-scoped OpenSearch indexes, hybrid retrieval, Bedrock/Claude answer generation, and citations.
- Enforced tenant authorization before retrieval, loaded a 312-document corpus across three tenants, and validated tuned query runtime at 94.29% on the current ground-truth set.

Serverless Document-Processing Reference Implementation

- Built an event-driven invoice extraction platform with S3, SQS, Step Functions, Lambda, Textract, Bedrock, DynamoDB, Glue, Athena, and Terraform.
- Implemented a champion/challenger evaluation lane and benchmarked Nova Lite on 250 documents with 242 successful extractions, 6.60s average latency, P95 under 9s, and approximately 28x lower extraction cost than Textract.

Collinear Group / Boeing - Principal Java Engineer | Aug 2021 - Aug 2022

Led backend architecture for Boeing manufacturing planning systems. Designed microservices for SQL Server change capture, Elasticsearch synchronization, proprietary planning algorithms, and Camunda BPMN workflow orchestration.

Nike - Principal Engineer / Technical Architect | Jan 2020 - Aug 2021

Led Java and Python/AWS teams supporting Nike global trade compliance. Drove architecture reviews, engineering standards, SAP/Kafka/Splunk integrations, feature launches, and stakeholder planning.

Cambia Health Systems - Cloud Engineer | May 2019 - Dec 2019

Built Java and TypeScript components for a healthcare attribution platform, deployed AWS Batch workloads, managed Flyway migrations, and maintained AWS DMS data-transfer processes.

Nike / Ancestry / CSAA - Architecture, Cloud, DevOps | 2015 - 2019

Authored enterprise reference architectures, contributed to Kafka and disaster recovery patterns, built cloud-native Java/Spring services, automated AWS infrastructure with Terraform/CloudFormation/Ansible/Python, and guided Tanzu/PCF adoption.

Core Skills

Languages: Java, Python, TypeScript, React, SQL

Cloud: AWS, Azure, GCP

AWS Services: Bedrock, OpenSearch, DynamoDB, Glue, Athena, Lambda, Step Functions, EKS, IAM, CloudWatch

Platforms & Containers: Kubernetes, OpenShift, Docker

IaC & CI/CD: Terraform, CloudFormation, Argo CD, Azure DevOps, Jenkins

Data & Messaging: Kafka, SQL and NoSQL Databases, Elasticsearch

Architecture: Distributed systems, microservices, cloud migration, platform architecture

Certifications

- HashiCorp Terraform Associate