

DARLINGTON CHANAKIRA

Web, E-Commerce & Cloud Engineer · AWS Certified SA & Developer · Kubernetes & Platform Engineering

Pretoria, South Africa · info@darlingtonchanakira.com · darlingtonchanakira.com · github.com/DC111-ui · linkedin.com/in/darlington-chanakira

PROFILE

I build and run production AWS environments, and I design the websites and platforms that run on top of them. Three years in, my default mode is secure-by-default, infrastructure-as-code, and systems that don't fall over when traffic spikes. I'm dual AWS-certified (Solutions Architect & Developer), currently sitting the CKA, and I've been deep in agentic AI workflows lately: automations that actually think a few steps ahead instead of just clicking buttons.

CORE COMPETENCIES

AWS Cloud Architecture — EC2, S3, VPC, IAM, Lambda, CloudFront, Route 53, DynamoDB, API Gateway, ACM, KMS, CloudWatch

Web & E-Commerce Development — React, Next.js, Vite, WordPress, WooCommerce, custom web applications

Infrastructure as Code — Terraform, AWS CloudFormation, AWS CLI; version-controlled, environment-repeatable deployments

DevOps & Automation — GitHub Actions, Bash, CI/CD pipeline design; automated provisioning from commit to production

Containers & Kubernetes — Docker, Kubernetes (Pods, Deployments, Services, Ingress, RBAC), cluster networking, service discovery, horizontal scaling

Security & Networking — IAM least-privilege, VPC segmentation, NAT gateways, security groups, TLS/ACM, KMS encryption

Programming — Python (scripting & automation), JavaScript / Node.js (ES6+), C++, REST API integration

Data Engineering (in progress) — DynamoDB design patterns, S3-based data lakes, pursuing AWS DEA-COI certification

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Web, E-Commerce & Cloud Engineer · **Independent** · Pretoria, SA Jan 2025 – Present

- **Architected and delivered end-to-end AWS environments for clients** — requirements analysis, VPC design, multi-AZ failover, IAM scoping, and TLS-secured public endpoints — taking sole ownership from kickoff to handover.
- **Designed and built production websites and online stores for clients** — WordPress/WooCommerce rebuilds, a Next.js application with Dynamics 365/ERP integration, and React/Vite sites — backed by the same AWS-grade infrastructure discipline as the cloud engagements.
- **Built full content delivery stacks** using S3, CloudFront, Route 53, and ACM: custom domain provisioning, certificate validation automation, and edge cache configuration for low-latency global access.
- **Automated all infrastructure provisioning** via Terraform and AWS CLI, cutting environment setup from hours to under 15 minutes and enabling full environment teardown and rebuild on demand.
- **Enforced zero-standing-privilege access patterns** across client accounts: IAM permission boundaries, SCPs, and role assumption flows with no long-lived credentials.
- **Produced solution architecture documentation**, Terraform module libraries, and post-deployment runbooks as standard client deliverables.

- **Worked alongside senior cloud architects** on production AWS deployments, gaining direct exposure to multi-service architectures operating under real SLA obligations.
- **Owned IAM policy implementation and audit cycles** across multiple AWS accounts – enforcing least-privilege access, reviewing permission drift, and remediating findings.
- **Contributed to VPC design and build:** subnet segmentation, route table configuration, security group rules, and NAT gateway provisioning for workload isolation.
- **Wrote Bash automation scripts** that eliminated manual operational processes, improving team throughput and reducing human error in routine tasks.
- **Participated in infrastructure incident response**, root cause analysis, and post-mortem documentation – building operational instincts around AWS service failures and recovery patterns.

SELECTED ACHIEVEMENTS

TC Energy & Logistics platform – WAF-protected, globally edge-cached logistics site on S3/CloudFront with automated TLS renewal; client-praised as “a modern, high-performing platform that accurately reflects our brand and capabilities.”

E-commerce rebuilds (discreet420, Brother Elite SA) – WooCommerce stores rebuilt for reliability and speed; both clients report the stores now handle real customer traffic smoothly with faster order management and a seamless checkout flow.

Legacy platform migration (Westerwick) – Full Next.js rebuild with Dynamics 365/ERP integration, resolving every reliability issue in the client's prior setup.

Live fraud-detection demo (self-built) – Interactive risk-scoring simulation (Lambda, DynamoDB, EventBridge) where visitors inject real attack patterns and watch a 25-signal engine score transactions in real time.

Compliance-grade ERP (LeafLedger, self-built) – Staff-only inventory and audit platform (AWS Amplify, API Gateway, Lambda, RDS, Cognito) with an append-only ledger built for regulatory inspection readiness.

CERTIFICATIONS

AWS Certified Solutions Architect – Associate	SAA-C03 · 2026
AWS Certified Developer – Associate	DVA-C02 · 2026
Certified Kubernetes Administrator (CKA)	In Progress
AWS Certified Data Engineer – Associate (DEA-C01)	Actively Pursuing

EDUCATION

BSc in Computing · University of South Africa (UNISA) · Expected 2027