

# Melanie Rau

## Strategic Cloud, Data & AI Technology Leader

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### PROFILE

A strategic technology leader with over 15 years of experience, dedicated to bridging the gap between technical potential and business objectives. I specialize in transforming complex cloud environments into secure, cost-effective, and high-performing assets. My expertise lies in pioneering FinOps culture, architecting Zero Trust security, and leading empowered engineering teams to deliver measurable results and drive business transformation.

### CORE SKILLS

FinOps &  
Governance

Zero Trust  
Architecture

Azure & GCP  
Strategy

Terraform (IaC)

Agile Team  
Leadership

CI/CD (GitHub  
Actions)

Power BI Reporting

CAF & WAF  
Frameworks

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### Cloud Engineering Manager

Oct 2024 - Present

##### Westminster City Council

- Lead a five-person cloud squad, running all Agile ceremonies to clear blockers and maintain delivery momentum.
- Set clear expectations with Delivery Managers on the true cost and overhead of new ideas and scope changes.
- Act as the reality check for the business; challenging requests that are not sustainable or cost-effective.
- Swapped manual builds for Terraform; server provisioning is now 2 hours, not days.
- Overseeing the team's migration from Synapse and ADF to our new Snowflake data platform.

#### Technical Architect

Feb 2024 - Present

##### Westminster City Council

- Act as the lead technical advisor to the leadership board on cloud architecture and strategy.

- Run fair procurement: leading the technical evaluation for panel selections and direct awards on G-Cloud 14.
- Produce HLD/LLD for Azure & GCP, applying CAF, WAF, and creating secure Landing Zones.
- Create and present regular Power BI reports to the Head of Finance for cloud spend oversight.
- Introduced and lead FinOps, cutting cloud bills by 15% in six months.

Senior Associate - Cloud & Data Engineering

Apr 2022 - Feb 2024

PwC UK

- Built secure Azure and GCP landing zones with policy-as-code guardrails for AI workloads.
- Introduced Microsoft Cloud for Sustainability; enabled carbon tracking for enterprise clients.
- Developed dashboards surfacing £300k+ in annual savings, guiding board-level decisions.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Azure Cloud Consultant, Revolent Group (Feb 2022 - Feb 2024)

Senior IT Infrastructure Technician, NextGEN360 (Oct 2021 - Feb 2022)

Senior IT Technician, Hologic, Inc. (Mar 2021 - Oct 2021)

IT Infrastructure Administrator, Phillips & Cohen Associates (Aug 2020 - Feb 2021)

IT Support Technician, Booking.com (Dec 2019 - Aug 2020)

Global Technology IT Operations Service Desk Analyst, dentsu International (May 2019 - Dec 2019)

Global IT Service Desk Analyst, GAZPROM Germania GmbH (Feb 2019 - May 2019)

Senior Information Technology Analyst, AGAPLESION Bethanien Diakonie gGmbH (Feb 2017 - Feb 2019)

Frontend Website Developer, H-Hotels.com (Aug 2016 - Jan 2017)

Graduate IT Specialist Application Development, SVLFG (Sep 2012 - Jan 2016)

CERTIFICATIONS

- Google AI Essentials
- PagerDuty Certified Administrator
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Administrator Associate
- Microsoft Certified: Azure Fundamentals
- CompTIA IT Fundamentals+
- Elements of AI

EDUCATION

BSc Sociology  
University of Kassel, Germany

LANGUAGES

- German: Native
- English: Fluent
- Romanian: Basic
- Spanish: Basic