

Chris Taylor

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Summary

DevOps and cloud architect turned AI-native builder and educator, with 20+ years shipping software and a decade leading cloud and developer-productivity transformations. Seeking a role where the deliverable is **other engineers' effectiveness: Principal/Distinguished-track engineering or Head of Developer Enablement**.

The other half of the role is the **bridge between product owner and engineer**: products taken from scratch to market more than once, for myself and for other people's companies.

Ships production software with coding agents in the loop across the majority of commits, under spec-first, contract-first, CI-gated controls. Measured, not asserted.

Teaching & Enablement

- **Teaching is the through-line, and the best-evidenced claim here**: twenty of the twenty-nine recommendations on my LinkedIn profile independently describe teaching, mentoring, or force multiplication (the full twenty-nine span **2008 to 2025**). They come from managers, engineers I was senior to, clients, and colleagues on other teams and at other companies. The asks were LinkedIn's stock request, sent in batches at job changes; the theme they converged on was never suggested.
- Co-founded the **Coyote DevOps Curriculum**; mentored **30+ engineers** through modernization and into Microsoft certifications.
- Drove **GitHub Copilot adoption across a 900-repo engineering organization**. Featured in the *Wall Street Journal* and the GitHub Galaxy keynote; GitHub cited a **50% reduction** in Terraform config authoring time in its own customer marketing.
- Took a **3.5-developer team from 12 to 42 work items per sprint in six weeks** at a 95% PR success rate, in an undocumented codebase inherited after the sole developer of twenty years unexpectedly passed away.
- **Interim development manager for 18 months over 23 people** (development and QA).
- Frequent speaker at .NET user groups, architecture panels, and conferences including QUEST QAI 2016 and Dev Up 2016.

Skills

- **AI engineering**: Microsoft Agent Framework, Model Context Protocol (MCP), Anthropic API and Claude Code, Azure AI Foundry, Vertex AI, multi-agent orchestration with A2A (agent-to-agent) and A2P (agent-to-person), RAG and vector search, prompt and context engineering, GitHub Enterprise and Copilot administration and rollout
- **Making AI provable and cost effective**: Langfuse tracing, batch rubric evaluators, golden and back-tested outputs, token cost controls and caching at the gateway
- **Cloud and platform**: Azure, GCP, AWS, Kubernetes (AKS/GKE/EKS), Helm, Terraform, Dapr, KEDA, Container Apps, Function Apps, Cloud Run, Lambda, API Gateway, multi-region architecture for business continuity and disaster recovery.
- **Languages**: C#/.NET, TypeScript/React, Python, PowerShell, Node, SQL

- **Delivery and release engineering:** GitHub Actions/GHAS/Codespaces, Azure DevOps, ArgoCD, LaunchDarkly (including session replay), progressive delivery and dark launch, contract-first OpenAPI, Playwright
- **Observability:** OpenTelemetry, Prometheus, Grafana, Loki, Serilog/SEQ, Azure Monitor, Cloud Monitoring
- **Identity and security:** Entra ID, Okta, Authentik, Keycloak, OAuth2/OIDC, GitHub Advanced Security, Azure Firewall, Cloudflare
- **Data and integration:** PostgreSQL, SQL Server, Azure SQL, Cosmos, Firestore, MongoDB, Service Bus / Event Hub, RabbitMQ, BizTalk, LogicApps, Azure APIM, Power Platform and Dataverse, Salesforce/MuleSoft
- **Enablement:** curriculum design, adoption programs, developer onboarding, ADRs and technical standards, FinOps including AI spend, mentoring to certification

Experience

Independent

August 2026 to Present

- Building the “by Chris Taylor” tool line full time: **Helix**, the change-intelligence toolset, and christaylor.ai’s own agent surface, an MCP server and an A2A concierge over the site’s published record.
- Interviewing for **Principal/Distinguished-track engineering** and **Head of Developer Enablement** roles.

Senior Developer II - Metafora

September 2025 to August 2026

- Upskilled other engineers on AI-assisted delivery so they became measurably more effective, rather than absorbing the work myself.
- All the client work was transportation and logistics: each engagement folded a TMS (Transportation Management System) into the client’s operations in some way, especially around LTL/FTL freight.
- Primary engineer on Socket Merlin, an AI-powered support orchestration and workflow automation platform for Metafora’s Socket product line. .NET / ASP.NET Core, React + TypeScript + Vite, PostgreSQL + pgvector, Redis, SSE + SignalR, Langfuse; deployed to GKE via Helm, managed with Terraform.
- Built the agent layer on **Microsoft Agent Framework** with Anthropic Sonnet 4.6/5 via Vertex AI, agent-to-agent (A2A) orchestration end to end, originally utilizing LiteLLM for multiple-model support before settling on the SDK.
- Stood up full-stack observability (OpenTelemetry, Serilog, SEQ, Prometheus, Grafana, Loki), along with container right-sizing and KEDA templates.
- Fronted all services with Authentik SSO carrying S2S authN/authZ, backed by any OIDC provider.
- Made the AI **provable rather than plausible**: **Langfuse** tracing across every agent run, a **batch-mode rubric evaluator** shipped to production so output is graded systematically instead of spot-checked, and **knowledge-graph** curation that **recovers from truncated model responses**.
- Designed the migration architecture for **a large online shipping marketplace**: a live production system split across AWS Lambda and Windows Servers, moving to container-based AWS deployment behind **API Gateway**, with **LaunchDarkly** (including session replay) carrying progressive exposure and **OpenTelemetry** preserving trace continuity across the legacy and target stacks so both could run side by side during cutover.

- Built an **AI-agent developer toolchain** (code index, hooks, devcontainer) so agents and new engineers start from the same context. Shipped as Claude and Copilot plugins in private marketplaces.
- Client delivery for a mid-size 3PL/4PL: carrier-egress and async rating, Azure Container Apps environments, Dapr, Azure API Management Gateway, contract-driven scaffolding, and release and promotion strategy on GitHub via GitHub Actions.
- Established test and release infrastructure from scratch: Playwright E2E, integration tests with real authentication and authorization, a unit-test coverage baseline, LaunchDarkly feature flags, an ADR framework, secret management, DevContainers, and GitHub Codespaces.
- **Creator of INTERLOCK**, a release-orchestration control plane that assembles dependency-ordered release candidates, validates them on ephemeral environments, and promotes to production deployed-but-dark at zero traffic behind attributed feature-flag flips. See Selected Projects.
- **Creator of Cloud Topology Toolkit**, a spec-driven infrastructure visualization platform. See Selected Projects.

Director of Software Development - Next Generation Logistics, Inc

July 2024 to July 2025

- Brought in to replace the sole developer of twenty years who unexpectedly passed away, inheriting multiple .NET TMS versions across nine customers with zero documentation. Stabilized critical operations by reverse-engineering the systems and building a sustainable development team.
- Led a transformation achieving a 250% productivity increase in six weeks with 3.5 developers using GitHub Copilot Enterprise and the YAMAUL multi-agent framework. Sprint velocity went from 12 to 42 work items, at a 95% PR success rate, with 200+ zero-downtime deployments via GitHub Actions to Azure Container Apps environments.
- Architected YAMAUL, an enterprise multi-agent AI system on Azure AI Foundry Agent Service with declarative YAML configurations, Connected Agents, and Multi-Agent Workflows orchestrating the development lifecycle, with integrated vector stores for semantic search across Azure SQL.
- Established an AI gateway on Azure API Management in front of AI Foundry, with Model Context Protocol integration, reducing AI operational costs by 60%: caching, token controls, and observability across Azure OpenAI, Anthropic, and local LLMs, with Entra ID authentication and conditional access.
- Built Microsoft Teams and M365 integration leveraging the Teams AI Toolkit and Copilot extensions with enterprise connectors, enabling natural-language access to SharePoint and Exchange, plus automated workflows via Graph API.
- Developed a new TMS on Power Platform / Dataverse with a Blazor UI hosted on Azure Container Apps, integrated M365 Copilot for freight queries, and Azure Service Bus for async messaging between microservices.
- Migrated 50+ repos from Azure DevOps to GitHub with Codespaces for cloud development, and built CI/CD pipelines reducing deployment time from hours to 12 minutes.
- Replaced legacy Avaya with AT&T Office@Hand integrated with Teams, Dynamics 365, and Copilot for automated call summaries in CRM.

Architect - RouteFreight Logistics, LLC

October 2023 to April 2024

- SME for Revenova, a Transportation Management System built on Salesforce.
- Integrated multiple logistics technology partners via Azure API Management, Power Automate, and Salesforce Flow and Apex, reducing operational expenses by 50%.

- Expanded Salesforce usage by adopting Sales Engagement (HVS) and further expanding capabilities with Einstein AI, Next Best Action, and Copilot.
- Responsible for Salesforce agreements and administration.
- Developed financial and market-trend reporting with Power BI, Salesforce, and Dataverse.
- Designed and developed a Microsoft Teams messaging extension, Outlook extension, and Teams bot via Azure Bot Framework, Azure OpenAI, the Microsoft Teams AI SDK, Adaptive Cards, and Copilot.

Enterprise Architect (Principal) - Coyote Logistics, LLC (Chicago, IL)

September 2019 to September 2023

- Co-founded the **Coyote DevOps Curriculum**, mentoring **30+ individuals** to modernize their development process and achieve Microsoft Certifications. The adoption engine behind everything below.
- **Featured at GitHub Galaxy 2023**: in the keynote by Inbal Shani and Thomas Dohmke. [Watch it here](#)
- **Featured in the Wall Street Journal**: recognized for successful adoption of Generative AI for developer productivity using GitHub Copilot. [Read the article](#)
- **GitHub case study**: led a public case study on Coyote Logistics' adoption of GitHub, highlighted by Thomas Dohmke. [Read the case study](#)
- **Cited by GitHub in its own Copilot marketing**: "Coyote Logistics' developers reduced the time to write Terraform config files by 50% with GitHub Copilot," with the pull-quote attributed to me. GitHub's CEO publicly asked to borrow the phrase.
- Founded and led the Cloud Enablement Team, crafting strategies and implementing cloud-native and hybrid applications while following strict financial operations management policies, partnering with FinOps leader Stackwatch and their Kubecost platform. The program ran roughly **\$260K a month in Azure spend at peak**.
- Led the GitHub migration of 900+ repos from Azure DevOps, implementing GitHub Actions and GitHub Advanced Security, and boosting developer productivity with GitHub Copilot.
- Spearheaded hybrid infrastructure and cloud architecture initiatives using Microsoft Azure and Microsoft Power Platform, Power Automate, Model Driven Apps, Canvas Apps, and Power Virtual Agents (now Copilot).
- Architected and implemented **Coyote Sandbox**, the company's first fully automated ephemeral testing environment. A four-year skunkworks project eventually greenlit to redefine how Coyote built software. Partnered with 3Cloud to create a Power Platform based front end for management.
- Designed a secure hybrid cloud environment with ExpressRoute, Azure Firewall, Azure Private DNS (split horizon), Azure Arc, Cloudflare, and Azure Virtual Network v2 hub and spoke.
- Established granular application cost metrics using Kubecost, GitHub, and Microsoft Azure Cost Management, leading to AI-driven cost and utilization dashboards.
- Established security monitoring via Azure Security Center and a bi-monthly cadence of working with security and application engineers on resolutions.
- Designed and implemented Azure Kubernetes Service with advanced features such as multiple node pools, RBAC, KEDA, Dapr, Istio, managed identities, and Azure CNI.
- Directed Azure API Management in a hybrid cloud scenario, integrating with Microsoft Dynamics CRM as well as hundreds of on-prem and cloud based services while implementing modern security standards via OAuth2 (IdentityServer and Microsoft Entra).
- Formed a cloud engineering release team focusing on automated provisioning with Terraform, Infracost, and ArgoCD, and integrating with development teams to be better partners in the DevOps process.

- Collaborated on architecting a Data Lake strategy using Azure Synapse, Azure Data Factory, Microsoft Fabric, Power BI, Dataverse, MongoDB, and on-prem SQL servers.
- Provided thought leadership through speaking engagements, blogging, and cross-team collaborations.
- Implemented pilot AI services, including Azure OpenAI, Vision, Speech, Language, and Document Intelligence.

DevOps Architect - Cryptocurrency Exchange (Chicago, Illinois)

December 2018 to July 2019

- Architected and built the infrastructure for a production crypto trading platform that traded \$22M in its first 48 hours.
- Designed systems for trading various cryptocurrency pairs and set up infrastructure for blockchain nodes.
- Developed customized Azure dashboards and workbooks for application monitoring.
- Collaborated on high availability solutions and automated build and deployment processes.

Senior Consultant - Polaris Solutions (Chicago, Illinois)

April 2013 to October 2018

- **Interim Development Manager for 18 months over 23 employees** (development and QA teams) on the Axis point-of-sale platform.
- Led 15+ unique Azure engagements across a number of service offerings.
- 20+ TFS/VSTS engagements for DevOps automation.
- 3+ engagements using ASP.NET Core, EF Core, and AdminLTE.
- Designer and development team member of a thick-client deployment system utilizing WiX (MSI), C# custom actions, SignalR, DAC deployment, WPF, MEF (Prism), and VSTS: a single-point-of-entry installer for **Axis**, AcuSport Retail Technology Group's all-in-one POS platform for sporting-goods retailers (now GearFire's), serving 400-500 retail customers at three to twenty-five nodes per location.
- Designed a multi-channel deployment system for a healthcare client's 10,000+ locations and 80,000+ nodes (VSTS, NuGet, ASP.NET MVC/WebAPI, AngularJS, Azure AD, App Services, Chocolatey, SQL Azure); the client carried the design forward in-house.
- Authored 10+ custom build and release tasks including UI connectivity to external services.

Application Developer - JPMorgan Chase (Chicago, Illinois)

December 2007 to April 2013

- Senior developer on a large-scale web payment card management system (PaymentNet) based in ASP.NET, C#, Remoting, MSMQ, IBM WMQ, IIS, and SQL Server, for the US Government.
- Focus on observability and performance improvement to support thousands of continuous users performing complex queries over terabytes of transactional data, instrumented with CA Wily.
- Managed the corporate-wide TFS offering and led the migration from Rational ClearCase to TFS 2008.
- Enhanced Application Lifecycle Management practice and conducted performance remediation projects.

IT Project Lead, eCommerce / EAI - The Shamrock Companies Inc. (Buffalo Grove, IL)

January 2006 to November 2007

- Created ReSource, an eCommerce and brand management module set for DotNetNuke 4.x using C#, Pageflex, and BizTalk Server 2006.
- Implemented BizTalk Server 2006 to provide more effective messaging between five order-entry systems and the Baan IV ERP.

- Implemented Microsoft Team Foundation Server 2005.

Development Lead - Infogenic Systems (Peoria, Illinois)

October 2004 to January 2006

- Developed and implemented a web part management suite for Caterpillar Inc. (C#, WSS 2.0).
- Migrated all hosting from internal servers to secured servers at a trusted hosting provider, greatly lowering monthly expenses and improving customer relations.
- Planned and implemented a continuous integration environment for .NET application development using CruiseControl.NET, NAnt, NUnit, and CVSNT. **Championed test-driven development** and implemented standardized issue tracking across company projects.

Software Developer - Morton Welding (Morton, Illinois)

April 2003 to October 2004

- Developed a large management application for a music-instrument distribution company using VB.NET, XML, Crystal Reports 9, and SQL Server 2000, engineered to interact with third-party accounting software.
- Implemented SQL Reporting Services to replace Crystal Reports 9 for daily labor and process reports through manual and automated delivery.

Selected Projects

Each of these makes something invisible legible so somebody else can act on it. I build to prove points.

Helix, change intelligence toolset (TypeScript, .NET, React, MCP, Docker)

- Ties a requirement to the exact span of code that implements it, stored as a file committed beside the code and kept pinned through refactors by a six-stage re-anchoring engine.
- Answers “is it done?” three separate ways (coded, shipped, verified) and refuses to average them, because a single percentage answers one stakeholder and misleads the other two. Mines years of history backwards so a team that has never heard of it can start today.
- Ships an MCP server and two research agents so coding agents maintain the links themselves, behind a CI gate that re-validates every agent proposal against HEAD and refuses unreviewed ones.
- 1,736 commits over 6 weeks. Direct successor to a 2010 CodePlex project of the same name.

Cloud Topology Toolkit, infrastructure visualization (Python, Cytoscape.js, Terraform/Helm/Kubernetes/Steampipe)

- Spec-driven, intermediate-representation-based multi-cloud topology platform rendering to SVG, PNG, Mermaid, draw.io, Structurizr, D2, PDF, and an interactive SPA. Turns a four-thousand-line terraform plan into a picture a reviewer can actually approve.
- Correlates Terraform-declared clusters against live Kubernetes state, and infers undeclared platform hops (SNAT, managed load balancers, private DNS), marking them as inferred rather than drawing a confident line that would teach something false.
- 630 commits over 3.5 weeks, 117 authored outright by the GitHub Copilot coding agent working a numbered issue queue.

INTERLOCK, release orchestration control plane (.NET, React/Vite, OpenAPI contract-first)

- See Metafora above. Puts the roles directly in the interface and ships a dev control panel for **driving failure modes on purpose**: knock CI red, take the flag control plane down, reject the next migration. A model train set for releases, so teams learn the unhappy paths in miniature before production teaches them at full scale.

Runnin' Mules!, real-time multiplayer racing arcade (Three.js/React Three Fiber, Rapier, Socket.IO, Firestore, Cloud Run)

- Solo build: authoritative game server, 3D physics with ragdoll, mobile companion app paired by QR code, Meshy-generated rigged 3D models, Google Chirp 3 HD broadcast announcer. The physical racetrack's control stack (Raspberry Pi, Pico, ESP32) lives in the same repository.
- Shipped with Grafana dashboards, Secret Manager, per-user rate limits, and semantic-release. 511 commits over 12 weeks.

Certifications

- **Microsoft Certified: Azure Developer Associate (AZ-204)**, Developing Solutions for Microsoft Azure
- **Microsoft Certified Professional**, Delivering Continuous Value with Visual Studio Application Lifecycle Management

Education

Bachelor of Science in Business Computer Systems

Bradley University, Peoria, IL, 2002

Delta Tau Delta Member

Accomplishments

- Recipient of the GCC MVP award for exceptional efforts in resolving stability and performance defects.

Speaking & Community

- Frequent speaker at local .NET user groups, architecture panels, and conferences including QUEST QAI 2016 and Dev Up 2016.
- Featured in the GitHub Galaxy 2023 keynote and the Wall Street Journal on enterprise Generative AI adoption.

Websites, Portfolios, Profiles

- [Portfolio: christaylor.ai](#)
- [LinkedIn Profile](#)
- [Generative AI Helping Boost Productivity of Some Software Developers, WSJ](#)
- [How Coyote Logistics uses GitHub](#)