

RUDY MARTINEZ

rudy@rudymartinez.ai | <https://linkedin.com/in/rudymartinezai> | <https://rudymartinez.ai>

SUMMARY

Seasoned Technology Leader with 30+ years of experience owning and advancing enterprise technology environments across defense, financial services, and technology sectors. Master's degree in Information Assurance with deep expertise spanning infrastructure, networking, DevOps, security architecture, and software operations. Proven track record as a hands-on working leader who stabilizes and scales complex technology organizations—directing infrastructure programs, leading critical incident response at the executive level, orchestrating M&A integrations, and building high-performing teams in small-to-mid-sized environments. Former US Navy Information Systems Technician with Top Secret clearance. Skilled at translating business requirements into practical, reliable technology solutions while partnering with executive leadership to align technology decisions with organizational goals. Expert in vendor and MSP management, compliance frameworks (CMMC, NIST, SOC 2, ISO 27001), and building internal technical ownership of mission-critical systems.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Stealth Startup (Silicon Valley) | Technology Leader / Head of IT & Cybersecurity June 2025 – Dec 2025

- **Established and led the full technology function** for stealth-mode drone manufacturing startup—spanning IT infrastructure, security, and compliance—achieving CMMC Level 1 certification within 3 months and establishing a strategic roadmap for Level 2/3 compliance aligned to DoD contract growth.
- **Architected cloud infrastructure strategy and deployed GCP Assured Controls environment** supporting CUI and ITAR-regulated workloads; leveraged Kubernetes (GKE) to orchestrate containerized workloads and Python to automate infrastructure provisioning and compliance controls, implementing end-to-end encryption, boundary protection, and audit logging to meet defense contractor requirements.
- **Owned end-to-end technology stack buildout** from greenfield, including rack-mounted infrastructure, Qualys vulnerability scanning, Splunk SIEM, CrowdStrike EDR, and 10+ integrated security tools—delivering continuous monitoring and automated threat detection in a compliance-driven environment.
- **Served as the primary technology voice to executive leadership and the board**, delivering monthly technology and risk briefings with compliance metrics and threat intelligence that shaped strategic decisions on product development and go-to-market security positioning.

Shield AI | Technology Leader / Director of IT & Acting VP of IT May 2023 – May 2025

Served as the senior Technology Leader and Acting VP of IT reporting directly to executive leadership, with full ownership of enterprise-wide technology strategy, infrastructure, security, and IT operations across a high-growth defense AI company.

- **Led and mentored a 6-engineer DevOps team in securing the enterprise CI/CD pipeline framework using NIST 800-218 (SSDF)**, conducting a full cross-departmental assessment engaging 4 engineering departments to embed security controls at every stage of the development lifecycle—reducing critical vulnerabilities reaching production by 70%+ and eliminating an estimated \$300K in annual remediation costs by shifting defect detection left.
- **Directed development of a drone telemetry data logging application** that replaced an existing third-party solution and was subsequently productized and licensed to external defense companies with identical operational requirements—directly creating a new revenue stream and demonstrating the company's software capabilities to government customers.
- **Architected and deployed Microsoft Azure and GCC High cloud environments**, building the full stack including Azure Active Directory, M365, and security controls aligned to FedRAMP and ITAR compliance requirements, enabling classified and sensitive workload operations across distributed teams.
- **Managed enterprise virtualization infrastructure across VMware and Horizon** for virtual desktop delivery; evaluated and deployed Proxmox as a cost-effective VMware alternative, successfully migrating workloads and reducing enterprise licensing overhead.
- **Led strategic planning and execution for provisioning and accreditation of two SCIF facilities** (Washington D.C. and Frisco, TX), managing infrastructure deployment and full certification process.
- **Managed strategic partnerships with third-party cybersecurity vendors** for penetration testing and CMMC Level 2 audit preparation, coordinating across legal, engineering, and operations to ensure zero-finding audit outcomes and sustained defense contractor compliance posture.

- **Established ITAR/EAR compliance program across enterprise**, securing classified technical data in SharePoint repositories and on-premises systems, partnering with legal counsel to implement export controls, and conducting quarterly compliance audits ensuring zero violations.

APCT Inc. | Technology Leader / Director of IT

Dec 2021 – Apr 2023

- **Served as senior Technology Leader for the full IT organization**, overseeing cybersecurity, network infrastructure, DevOps automation, and service desk—transforming a reactive support model into a proactive, security-driven operation that reduced incidents by 35% while scaling to support rapid business growth.
- **Directed outsourced MSP partnership for security monitoring and infrastructure support**, defining SLAs, managing performance, and ensuring seamless integration between third-party operations and internal IT—maintaining coverage across all distributed facilities.
- **Led cross-functional technology and compliance initiative for CMMC Level 2** audit preparation, aligning security controls, personnel, and technology investments to meet DoD contractor requirements and protect the company’s contract eligibility.
- **Designed and implemented enterprise technology and security architecture** across 8 distributed facilities, encompassing cloud migrations, edge computing deployments, and IoT building automation systems—reducing security incidents by 40% through enhanced monitoring and threat detection capabilities.

Visa | Senior Manager, Information Systems

June 2015 – Dec 2021

- **Spearheaded the launch of VisaUniversity.com**, a globally released payments certification platform that generated immediate and sustained revenue—the platform continues to drive revenue for Visa to this day—directly connecting IT delivery to a revenue-generating product line and expanding Visa’s digital education footprint across global markets.
- **Led Azure cloud adoption and Microsoft stack modernization** across enterprise infrastructure, integrating Azure services and M365 with existing on-premises environments to support 99.9% uptime across 30 key applications serving global operations.
- **Led creation of robust CI/CD pipelines across 50+ infrastructure components**, significantly enhancing operational efficiency and reliability supporting critical business applications.
- **Served as M&A Integrations Lead for 5 acquisitions**, orchestrating seamless IT integration of acquired companies into Visa’s infrastructure, synchronizing HR systems for 2,000+ employees across 20+ platforms with 60-day integration cycles.
- **Directed comprehensive security assessments program**, overseeing 50+ assessments enterprise-wide to fortify Visa’s security posture and mitigate risk across global operations.

Dell Inc. | Manager, Application Management – Incident Command & IT Operations

2004 – 2014

- **Served as Incident Commander during the Dell.com e-commerce platform outage**, coordinating real-time response across all engineering and operations teams to restore one of the world’s highest-traffic commerce platforms—resolving the incident under intense pressure within SLA windows while maintaining continuous executive-level communication throughout.
- **Led incident response for a complete manufacturing plant outage**, serving as the primary technical authority on the ground and providing direct real-time briefings to CEO Michael Dell on status, business impact, and remediation steps—demonstrating composure and command clarity under the highest-pressure executive scrutiny.
- **Managed ITIL-based Incident and KCS Knowledge Management processes** across a global enterprise, reducing resolution times and improving service delivery efficiency at scale.
- **Deployed and supported IT infrastructure for new call centers**, including 1,000+ desktop systems and multiple servers, ensuring stable and reliable operational capabilities from day one.

EDUCATION

Capella University

Doctorate of Information Technology

Current Student, 2025–Present

Strayer University

Master of Science, Information Assurance (Cybersecurity)

2019–2022 | GPA 4.0

St. Edward’s University

Bachelor of Arts, Computer Systems Management

2011–2013 | GPA 3.8

MILITARY SERVICE

U.S. Navy, Information Systems Technician Petty Officer 1st Class | Top Secret Clearance | 1994–2004

Additional career history and recommendations available at [linkedin.com/in/rudy101](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rudy101)