

Wes Sanford

Enterprise Solution Architect · Azure data platforms · Public sector and healthcare

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SUMMARY

Enterprise solution architect with 28 years in software engineering: the first twenty at Microsoft's Developer Division, the last nine on state Medicaid, federal reporting, and K-12 data programs. I design Azure-native data platforms, integration architectures, and governance frameworks for programs where CMS certification, HIPAA, and audit readiness are not optional, and I lead the cross-functional teams that deliver them. Recent work: a district-wide enterprise data warehouse for a Florida school district, the first enterprise data platform outside a state MMIS warehouse, and solution quality across 365 non-functional requirements on a multi-vendor Medicaid modernization.

IBM Consulting

Apr 2019 – present

Enterprise Solution Architect and Practice Lead

Large K-12 school district, Florida · Enterprise Solution Architect

Nov 2025 – present

- Architected the district's enterprise data warehouse on Azure: the student information system into Azure Data Factory into Azure SQL, star-schema data marts, and Power BI, replacing a previous vendor's dashboards and a costly survey platform.
- Authored the contracted deliverables: architecture and design, scope, technical platform recommendation, data warehouse architecture, physical data model with DDL, and the server build document covering Private Link, firewall, and least-privilege database roles.
- Set the security baseline: encryption at rest, Azure Key Vault for key management, private endpoints for users and BI, and role-based access driven from the district's Active Directory rather than a custom security model.
- Designed the Power BI workspace and security-group structure across dev, QA, and production, with district, multi-school, and single-school filtering.
- Delivered the first data-quality dashboards within the district's existing budget by sizing Azure components deliberately and avoiding a seven-figure per-user licensing path.
- Cut an AI-drafted 60-page architecture document to what a CIO-level audience will read, and ran knowledge transfer for the district's own developers.
- Shaped the integration approach for ERP and assessment data, and helped stand up the district's data governance board.

Medicaid managed-care organization, North Carolina · Development Lead and Enterprise Solution Architect

May 2024 – Nov 2025

- Solved the client's first enterprise data platform outside the core MMIS enterprise data warehouse: data governance, pipeline orchestration, and analytics capabilities.
- Led solution architecture and development strategy for a 12-person team automating financial reporting and remittance-advice verification for claims processing; month-to-month vendor RA verification improved 50% and the work surfaced critical system and configuration defects.
- Introduced AI-assisted documentation into the SDLC to document 10–20K-line undocumented stored procedures, accelerating knowledge transfer and reducing defects.
- Drove partner-level strategic architecture for modernizing healthcare EDI claims and encounters processing: integration patterns, data standards, and scalable platform designs.

State Medicaid agency · Quality Assurance and Solution Architecture

Sep 2022 – May 2024

- Directed solution quality for a large-scale Medicaid data platform modernization across a multi-vendor, multi-module ecosystem; owned 365 non-functional requirements tied to performance, interoperability, scalability, security, operations, and CMS certification.
- Bridged architecture, engineering, and the PMO so design, implementation, and operational readiness met CMS, HIPAA, contractual, and data-governance standards; led audit preparation and evidence gathering.
- Defined and governed KPI and SLA frameworks tied to contractual obligations and liquidated damages; built executive dashboards used in weekly governance forums.
- Led the 372-requirement NFR workshop (definitions of done, acceptance criteria, evidence-based verification) and built the requirements traceability pipeline from Azure DevOps into the state's Jama format.
- Built the master roster standardizing staffing, access, and training across vendor and IBM teams; authored the data security and privacy onboarding process.

IBM Global Health and Human Services · Practice Lead: T-MSIS Development, Release Management, and SDLC Governance

Apr 2020 – May 2022

- Directed the T-MSIS development team delivering federal Medicaid reporting for six states with CMS-compliant pipelines and consistent architecture.
- Led release management across five state programs (DDI and O&M): scheduling, dependency tracking, UAT coordination, quality gates, and traceability.
- Owned SDLC tooling strategy (Jama, TaskTop) and institutionalized release standards, reporting frameworks, templates, and training adopted across the practice.
- Architected automated testing with Tosca; reduced critical production incidents by 25%. Contributed release-management and federal-reporting content to RFP responses that won additional state engagements.

State of New Mexico, HHS 2020 enterprise data warehouse · Scrum Master and Coach

Apr 2019 – Apr 2020

- Designed the Agile operating model for the data services team on New Mexico's CMS-aligned MMISR modernization; ran the daily Scrum of Scrums across engineering, QA, data, and architecture.
- Built the Jira tooling ecosystem (workflows, dashboards, burndown, release views) and the weekly performance reporting used by program leadership.

State of New Mexico

Feb 2017 – Apr 2019

Architecture Review Board Lead; Functional and QA Architect

- Partnered with CIO-level leadership to design, stand up, and operate the statewide Architecture Review Board for the HHS 2020 / MMISR modernization, uniting Medicaid, behavioral health, child welfare, and cross-agency stakeholders under one governance process.
- Led ARB reviews across all MMISR modules for conformance to the enterprise architecture, CMS modularity, and interoperability; assessed designs, data flows, integration patterns, and security approaches.
- In parallel, senior QA engineer and Scrum Master on the YesNM portal (Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF eligibility and enrollment); improved testing efficiency 35% and cut testing cycles 40% with modern tooling.

Sanford IoT

Jan 2016 – Feb 2017

Owner

Founded an IoT research and development company in New Mexico focused on off-grid device management; prototyped the first product before closing the business to care for family.

Microsoft

Senior Program Manager; Senior Software Engineer (QA), Engineering Excellence and Developer Division

Feb 2012 – Jan 2016

- Drove adoption of Visual Studio Online and Azure services under the One Engineering System initiative.
- Member of the developer-productivity team that ran Agile transformations and discipline dojos across divisions; knowledge engineer for the SDET discipline.
- Led QA automation strategy for Office 365 SharePoint Online, building data-driven test frameworks and CI pipelines that cut deployment time 30%.

Cisco Linksys (acquired Pure Networks)

Aug 2008 – Jul 2011

Senior Manager, Software Engineering

Managed quality and releases for Device Setup, Cisco Connect, Valet, and Linksys E-Series routers; led adoption of the Atlassian toolset across the consumer division and built the PC and Mac client automation architecture.

Pure Networks

Sep 2006 – Aug 2008

Test Manager

Managed a team of 20 across Network Magic, SpeedMeter Pro, and the HNAP developer kit; moved the SDLC from waterfall to Scrum and introduced work-item tracking and a test-case database.

Microsoft

May 1995 – Feb 2006

SDE/T and Test Manager

- Hired and managed the 23-person QA team for Visual Studio Team Foundation V1; team owner for model-based testing with SpecExplorer; managed China outsourcing, saving \$300K in year one and \$600K+ in year two.
- Test Manager, Internet Explorer Sustained Engineering (three leads, 30 engineers); one of eight engineers on the IE security and API documentation project; led Watson crash-reporting process improvements.
- Test Lead, Visual C++ Win64 compiler backend and VC 6.1; earlier SDE/T on Visual C++ setup and the Macintosh box.

Cummins Electronics

Sep 1992 – Aug 1995

Software Design Engineer

Designed embedded real-time control modules for Cummins diesel engines.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Architecture	Data and cloud	Delivery
Enterprise and solution architecture	Azure Data Factory, Azure SQL,	Release management across multi-
Architecture review boards and	Synapse, Microsoft Fabric	state programs
decision records	Data warehouse and lake design,	SDLC governance: Jama, TaskTop,
Non-functional requirements and	star schema, source-to-target	Azure DevOps, Jira
traceability	mapping	Agile coaching, Scrum of Scrums,
HIPAA, CMS certification, security	Power BI with role-based access	quality gates
and privacy by design	from Active Directory	Executive communication, RFP
	CI/CD, test automation (Tosca), AI-	contribution, stakeholder alignment
	assisted documentation	

EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS

B.S. Computer Science, Ball State University, 1992

Trustworthy AI and AI Ethics (IBM, 2024)
watsonx.ai, watsonx.data, and watsonx.governance
Sales Foundation (IBM, 2024)
IBM watsonx Essentials (IBM, 2024)
Security and Privacy by Design Foundations (IBM, 2023)
Enterprise Design Thinking Practitioner (IBM, 2022)
IBM Garage Foundation (IBM, 2022)
IBM Certified First-Line Manager (IBM, 2021)
IBM Agile Explorer (IBM, 2020)
Scrum Master: Scrum for the Team (Skillssoft, 2020)
In progress: Microsoft Azure AI Solution Architect

COMMUNITY

Secretary and Treasurer, Microsoft GLEAM board (2005–2006)
President, Microsoft Native American employee board (1997–2000); created a mentor program for Native American youth

TOOLSET

Azure

Microsoft Fabric

SQL Server

Power BI

Python

C# · C++

Azure DevOps

GitHub

Jama · TaskTop

Tosca

ServiceNow

Jira · Confluence