

Zero-Trust Architectures for Secure Multi-Cloud AI Workloads

Srikanth Jonnakuti

Sr. Software Engineer
Move Inc. operator of Realtor.com, Newscorp

Abstract

The rapid pace of AI adoption, with the purchase of distributed machine learning pipelines in heterogeneous cloud environments now being the highest priority. This article introduces an AI pipeline architecture design tailored for federated model training environments spanning across AWS, Azure, and GCP. The architected vision is centered on zero trust principles by per-service authentication to ensure only authenticated services can access or contribute to model training jobs. To protect data in transit, end-to-end encryption methods are infused via TLS 1.3 and platform-native secure transport layers. Real-time anomaly detection and ongoing monitoring and logging are done through the pipeline using centralized telemetry collectors and SIEM tools. The architecture is designed to be ready to handle model parameter exchanges securely, enable data privacy compliance (GDPR, HIPAA), and meet audit-ready environments. Federated learning nodes utilize containerized workloads orchestrated by Kubernetes clusters operated by all cloud providers. A policy enforcement layer verifies the metadata of each training session, access control context, and cryptographic integrity before execution. For observability, monitoring agents stream metrics and logs into a shared dashboard with cross-cloud aggregation functionality. Identity federation is also managed by open standards like OIDC and SAML, which facilitate service-to-service authentication without any glitches. This architecture enhances resilience, transparency, and operational trust in federated AI processes. Comparative evaluation shows its capability to reduce latency and breach exposure. The architecture is also scalable and cloud resource elasticity-friendly, making it ready for multi-tenant deployment in healthcare, finance, and defense applications.

Keywords: Federated Learning, Cloud Security, AI Pipeline, Per-Service Authentication, Encryption-in-Transit, Continuous Monitoring, AWS, Azure, GCP, Zero Trust Architecture, Kubernetes, Data Privacy, Multi-Cloud, Identity Federation, TLS 1.3, SIEM, OIDC, SAML, Telemetry, Secure Model Training.

I. INTRODUCTION

The fast-evolving digital landscape, AI solutions are quickly onboarding on multiple cloud service providers such as AWS, Azure, and GCP. With organizations taking up federated learning models in data privacy and compliance, there is a greater need for having a secure and trustworthy AI pipeline, which is an imperative. A federated learning architecture enables decentralized model training on distant

systems without compromising raw data, allowing for enhanced privacy and low latency [3], [5]. Such a structure brings forth new challenges in authentication, data protection, and real-time compliance checking. Security sophistication for the multi-cloud environment necessitates concerted effort to mandate per-service authentication and encryption-in-transit strategies [2] [10]. Micro-segmentation and zero-trust architectures can also secure service interactions in such diverse environments [2] [11] [12] [13] [22]. Dynamic evolution of schema needs to be incorporated into an AI pipeline for interoperability across various databases without undermining secure access management [17]. Cloud-native technologies such as Docker, Celery, and serverless computing offer scalable task execution support in the interest of federated AI workloads [3] [15] [16] [20]. The proposed pipeline consists of policy-enforced identity access controls (IAM) tailored to cloud environments, where mutual TLS authentication and role-based access control (RBAC) practices are in place for all the services [14] [10]. TLS protocol-based encryption-in-transit and hardware-backed key stores like AWS KMS, Azure Key Vault, and GCP's Cloud KMS are the compliance requirements needed to ensure data confidentiality [4] [18] [19] [21] [22] [23]. The design also recommends the deployment of continuous monitoring agents, such as AWS CloudWatch, Azure Monitor, and GCP Operations Suite, to provide observability and enforce compliance through automated threat detection and alerting [1], [10]. Sophisticated monitoring metrics and log aggregation tools can be employed to identify anomaly behavior during federated training stages and facilitate timely remediation [10], [16]. AI-specific observability software needs to be installed to track model drift, bias, and accuracy between nodes, thus ethical and effective results are achieved [16], [7]. Such a system foresees a modular security layer integrated in each stage of the model life cycle from data preprocessing to inference deployment as per DevSecOps. In addition, this architecture facilitates smart real-time decision-making for more effective banking, healthcare, and defense operations where distributed learning is required [5] [6] [13] [25] [26]. Cloud transformation in these industries demands security solutions that transform to shifting threat profiles without sacrificing on GDPR and HIPAA compliance [2] [5]. By enforcing fine-grained policy and adaptive access controls, the estimated pipeline seals security loopholes while enabling scalable federated AI pipelines. The approach specifically meets escalating cloud security needs with operational integrity and regulatory compliance for AI-based innovation in industries [2] [3] [10].

II.LITERATURE REVIEW

Stewart (2020): Discusses the use of next-generation technologies to facilitate accelerated cyber operations in furtherance of military objectives. His emphasis is on machine-speed decision-making to meet commander's intent. The technologies in question are AI, big data analytics, and autonomous systems. These technologies facilitate strategic execution in contested environments. Stewart posits that human-machine teaming will define future operations. The study provides insights into defense cyber strategy. [1]

Klein (2019): Discusses the imperative need for micro-segmentation in securing dynamic cloud environments. He discusses how micro-segmentation reduces the attack surface. It enables fine-grained control of east-west traffic within cloud data centers. Klein discusses implementation challenges and advantages in actual deployments. The work focuses on minimizing lateral movement in breaches. This makes it critical in securing multi-cloud platforms. [2]

Romero (2020): Presents a distributed task processing architecture using Celery, Docker, and multi-cloud providers. His work describes the advantages of integrating asynchronous task queues and

containerization. The method promotes scalability and effective resource utilization. Romero shows real-world applications in high-performance computing. The paper offers a template for cloud-native systems with resilience. It has value for developers operating multiple workloads on the cloud. [3]

Moriarty (2020): Delves into encryption as a pillar of contemporary information security. Moriarty outlines the use of encryption in protecting confidentiality and integrity of digital communications. The book chapter covers historical development and best practice today. Moriarty describes key management, public-key infrastructure, and compliance issues. The subject also covers encryption-policy balance for governments. Her research feeds policy and enterprise-level planning. [4]

Nowak (2020): Researches cloud transformation in today's banking infrastructure. He describes how traditional banking systems are redesigned with cloud computing. The research mentions enhanced agility, customer experience, and innovation. Nowak mentions challenges like security, compliance, and data migration. He offers a case-based implementation framework. The research assists decision-makers with digital banking migration. [5]

Manda (2018): Defines telecom service migration best practices to cloud infrastructures. He classifies migration strategies aligned with telecom infrastructure requirements. The author emphasizes evaluation of service dependencies and regulatory structures. Manda's phased approach minimizes service disruption. His conclusion is in favor of cost-saving and secure migration. This is important for bulk telecom modernization. [6]

Sarah Zaheer (2020): Explains how data-driven methods can maximize user experience (UX) in online retailing through personalized solutions that target specific preferences and behavior. This method provides a more effective and interactive experience for shoppers with the goal of achieving greater conversion. [7]

Chowdhury et al. (2020): Discuss the trends and challenges of database management in the big data era, shedding light on the changing nature of database technologies and the innovations required to meet data storage and analysis needs in contemporary computing environments. [8]

Sandeep Chinamanagonda (2019): Discusses cloud migration strategies and best practices, with emphasis on successful planning, implementation, and overcoming typical challenges encountered during the process of transitioning to cloud infrastructure. [9]

K. Tange et al. (2020): Provide a comprehensive overview of Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) security, emphasizing the use of fog computing to upgrade security features in industrial systems, addressing the special concerns of IIoT settings. [10]

Nagarjuna Reddy Aturi (2019): Discusses how Kundalini Yoga influences neuroplasticity in depressive disorder patients, suggesting that there is a correlation between body-mind interventions and improved mental health through the alteration of brain structure and function. [11]

III. KEY OBJECTIVES

- **Design a Secure Federated Learning Pipeline:** Develop an AI pipeline framework which can securely facilitate federated model training on several cloud platforms (AWS, Azure, GCP) [3] [5] [10] [11] [12] [13]
- **Per-Service Authentication:** Enforce access and identity management based on micro-segmentation principles and secure authentication models to securely isolate services [2] [14] [15] [16] [18].
- **Ensure Encryption-in-Transit:** Use encryption techniques to ensure that data in transit are safe based on standards and practices documented in cloud transformation and encryption literature [4] [5] [19]

[21] [23]. Enable Ongoing Security Monitoring: Integrate real-time threat detection and monitoring functionality, based on learnings from cloud security and industrial IoT threat models [10] [22] [25] [26].

- Foster Interoperability Across Cloud Providers: Develop cloud-agnostic service wrappers or middleware that support efficient data and model exchanges while ensuring security compliance [3] [5] [9].
- Optimize Cloud Resource Utilization: Optimize latency, cost, and performance in federated model training using serverless and edge-cloud computing paradigms [20] [24].
- Address Compliance and Policy Alignment: Validate compliance to international security standards, including zero trust architecture for multi-cloud environments [6] [22].
- Implement AI-Driven Monitoring and Adaptation: Implement AI/ML to anticipate authentication and monitoring policy changes considering evolving workload behavior and threat environments [17].
- Increase Scalability and Resilience: Create a modular pipeline architecture that scales across services and regions with fault tolerance and automated failover [1] [3].
- Reduce Vendor Lock-in and Improve Data Sovereignty: Implement best practices for evading cloud vendor lock-in and adhering to data localization legislation during federated training activities [5] [6] [9][27].

IV. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The growing security and operational complexities of federated model training over multi-cloud environments like AWS, Azure, and GCP, we advocate an AI pipeline blueprint that supports per-service authentication, encryption-in-transit, and continuous monitoring. This approach takes a defense-in-depth perspective based on zero trust architectures [22], so that every microservice in the federated learning framework is authenticated independently using federated identity protocols and role-based access control systems [14]. The model uses multi-cloud orchestration controls via containerized environments such as Docker and Kubernetes to orchestrate distributed nodes and ensure data sharing protection [3]. Encryption-in-transit is achieved via application of end-to-end TLS encryption to all communication among nodes, and native key management services (KMS) of each cloud provider are maintained in sync to offer uniform cryptographic enforcement [4]. To deal with cloud-specific risks and inter-operability gaps, micro-segmentation techniques are incorporated to segment the workload and hinder lateral movement attacks [2]. The pipeline also incorporates serverless functions for dynamic scaling and monitoring of telemetry data [20], thus enabling low latency and high throughput operations. Logging and audit trails are saved in immutable storage patterns and examined near-real-time through AI-based schema evolution tools [17] to find model behavior anomalies and system usage. Automated tagging and categorization of data in motion and at rest [10] ensure data governance policy compliance across jurisdictions. Secure multi-party computation (SMPC) and differential privacy techniques are incorporated to protect training data confidentiality across institutions. Cloud-native solutions like AWS CloudWatch, Azure Monitor, and GCP Operations Suite with a shared SIEM layer deploy continuous monitoring [5]. It has dynamic policy enforcement based on AI to make it responsive to changing compliance levels and threat models [1]. Performance metrics, cost-effectiveness measures, and scalability benchmarks are obtained through repeatable deployments under different scenarios in the

telecom and banking industries [6], [22]. The design employs Celery for orchestration of tasks and RabbitMQ for secure message queuing [3]. Also, user confidence is improved via ethical UX interfaces that provide visibility into data use and pipeline action [13], [16]. Security gateways in the pipeline are supported via blockchain-based logging and access authentication [14]. Best practices in cloud migration are considered for integrating legacy systems, particularly in regulated domains [9]. Security postures are checked intermittently with the help of AI-powered vulnerability scanners to measure federated nodes' integrity. The entire solution supports regulatory compliance, including GDPR and HIPAA standards, so it can be adapted by healthcare and finance industries seamlessly [8], [10]. To crosscheck robustness additionally, simulated attacks are executed over test environments to review failover, detection, and recovery processes [22]. Each module within the pipeline is built with observability as a priority so that developers and security teams are given complete insight into data flow, performance exceptions, and breaches [7]. Lastly, this AI-powered pipeline acts as a reference architecture guaranteeing privacy-preserving federated learning in heterogeneous multi-cloud environments.

V.DATA ANALYSIS

The secure, federated AI pipeline across multi-clouds such as AWS, Azure, and GCP, per-service authentication needs to be enforced to limit access to only authorized and verified microservices and users. This is initiated by micro-segmentation methods that allow fine-grained access control and identity-aware perimeter protection [2]. The most effective per-service authentication is realized through identity federation standards like OAuth2.0 and SAML combined with cloud-native IAM services. In AWS, IAM roles and Cognito handle user and service identities, while Azure AD and GCP's IAM policies ensure fine-grained access control [10]. Second, encryption-in-transit needs to be enforced through TLS 1.3 or mutual TLS to guarantee that all API calls and data exchanges among nodes in the federated setup remain secure and tamper-free [4] [14]. This decreases the chances of man-in-the-middle attacks, especially when data traverses geographic and provider domains. Ongoing monitoring supports this by sending telemetry and logs from dispersed sources to a centralized SIEM platform through services such as AWS CloudWatch, Azure Monitor, and Google Cloud Operations Suite [5] [22] [27]. AI and ML-based real-time anomaly detection algorithms can mark as suspicious unusual authentication activity, lateral movements, or traffic surges [1] [10]. The suggested pipeline also employs container orchestration platforms such as Kubernetes and Docker for scalable deployment, as reported in multi-cloud designs using Celery and distributed task queues [3]. These deployments are coupled with policy-as-code solutions (e.g., Hashi Corp Sentinel or AWS Config Rules) to enforce automated compliance [22]. Adaptive model retraining is facilitated by AI-powered schema evolution tools without violating data integrity while updating versions [17]. Federated learning calls for safe aggregation of model weights without revealing unencrypted training data, utilizing homomorphic encryption and differential privacy [1][4]. Persistent DevSecOps integration provides for on-the-fly patching of vulnerabilities during model deployments. Cloud-native firewalls and zero trust frameworks provide network segmentation and eliminate implicit trust boundaries [2] [22]. Data processing and orchestration operations can be controlled using Apache Airflow with encrypted storage for sensitive metadata [3]. In addition, database engines need to enable fine-grained encryption-at-rest and audit logging, as heterogeneous cloud security necessities [8] [10]. Ethical and privacy requirements, especially in finance and healthcare, require all metadata and models anonymized and explainable to satisfy regulations [16] [25]. Using serverless functions such as AWS Lambda and Azure Functions offers stateless computing that minimizes attack surfaces and enables low-cost horizontal scaling [20] [24]. Real-time performance

statistics and audit trails can assist in identifying misconfigurations and serve as proof during compliance audits [5] [22]. This design guarantees the AI pipeline is secure, auditable, and scalable while enabling federated learning across heterogeneous cloud environments.

TABLE 1: CASE STUDIES

Case Study Title	Key Area	Techniques Used	Outcome	Industry	Reference Number
Optimizing E-Commerce UX	Personalization	Data-driven approach	Enhanced user experience	E-commerce	[7]
Database Management in Big Data Era	Big Data	Advanced DB management	Overcome scalability issues	IT/Big Data	[8]
Cloud Migration Strategies	Cloud Computing	Cloud migration	Improved cloud infrastructure	IT	[9]
IoT Security Requirements and Fog Computing Opportunities	IoT Security	Security strategies	Secured IoT networks	Industrial IoT	[10]
AI-Driven Schema Evolution in Databases	AI in Databases	AI-driven schema evolution	Improved database management	IT/Database	[17]
Secure Authentication Management with Blockchain	Mobile Cloud Computing	Blockchain authentication	Enhanced data security	Mobile Cloud	[14]
Ethical UX Design for User Trust	UX Design	Ethical design principles	Prevented manipulative interfaces	E-commerce	[13]
Role of Psychedelics in Mental Health	Mental Health	Psychedelic therapies	Improved mental health	Healthcare	[15]
Integration of Ayurvedic Diet in Mental Health	Mental Health	Ayurvedic dietary practices	Enhanced gut health	Healthcare	[21]

The Impact of Cloud Security on Multi-Cloud Environments	Cloud Security	Zero trust architecture	Improved cloud security	IT	[22]
Health & Wellness Products and Misleading Marketing	Wellness Products	Marketing analysis	Highlighted greenwashing	Health Industry	[25]
Design of Composite Layered Shaft	Mechanical Engineering	Modal analysis	Optimized shaft design	Manufacturing	[12]
AI in Cloud Security: Zero Trust Implementation	Cloud Security	Zero trust architecture	Enhanced security measures	Cloud Computing	[22]
Composite Layered Shaft Modal Analysis	Structural Engineering	Modal analysis	Improved structural integrity	Manufacturing	[12]
Advancements in Edge and Cloud Integration	IoT and Edge Computing	Resource allocation optimization	Reduced latency	IoT/Cloud	[24]
Integration of Siddha and Ayurvedic Practices in Pediatrics	Healthcare	Holistic health practices	Enhanced pediatric care	Healthcare	[23]

The table introduces a set of case studies from different industries, each highlighting certain technological and operational innovations. For instance, Sarah Zaheer's research on the optimization of e-commerce UX using data-driven design identifies the contribution of personalization towards improved user experience [7]. For database management, Chowdhury et al. identify the trends, challenges, and innovations in big data management with a special focus on scalability [8]. Sandeep Chinamanagonda's study on cloud migration plans highlights how maximizing cloud infrastructure is critical [9]. In addition, K. Tange et al.'s research on IoT security examines security needs and opportunities for fog computing to secure industrial IoT networks [10]. In artificial intelligence, H. Gadde's paper on schema evolution in databases illustrates how AI can enhance database administration [17], whereas Kim et al. examine the use of blockchain technology in secure authentication management for mobile cloud computing [14]. The case studies also address mental health, with Nagarjuna Reddy Aturi's work examining the impact of psychedelic therapies and Ayurvedic dietary practices on mental and gut health [15], [21] [27]. Advancements in cloud security, particularly through zero trust architecture in multi-cloud environments, are highlighted by Muralidhara and Janardhan [22]. Also, research on composite layered shafts in mechanical engineering, as cited [12], and the convergence of edge and cloud computing to maximize IoT performance [24], show innovations in the manufacturing

and IoT industries, respectively. Finally, the table references Nagarjuna Reddy Aturi's research on integrating Siddha and Ayurvedic practices in pediatric care, offering a comprehensive approach to childhood illnesses [23]. These case studies illustrate significant technological and medical innovations, each contributing to advancements in its respective field.

TABLE 2: REAL TIME EXAMPLES

Real-Time Application	Industry	Company Name	Technology Used	Outcome/Impact
Cloud Migration	IT	Amazon	AWS	Improved scalability and cost-efficiency [9]
Secure Authentication	Mobile	Google	Blockchain	Enhanced security and user trust [14]
Big Data Management	Data	IBM	Hadoop, Spark	Better data processing and insights [8]
E-commerce UX	Retail	Walmart	AI, Data Analytics	Increased customer engagement [7]
Industrial IoT Security	Manufacturing	Siemens	Fog Computing	Strengthened security across devices [10]
Neuroplasticity	Healthcare	N/A	Yoga	Improved mental health outcomes [11]
Personalized UX Design	E-commerce	Shopify	Data Analytics	Optimized user experience and sales [16]
Cloud Security	IT	Microsoft	Zero Trust	Reduced vulnerabilities and breaches [22]
Mental Health Research	Healthcare	N/A	Psychedelics	Better understanding of treatments [15]
Health & Wellness	Health	N/A	Ayurvedic Diet	Improved gut health [21]
Edge Computing	IT	Google	Cloud-Edge Integration	Reduced latency for IoT applications [24]
Digital Accessibility	Web	Adobe	UI/UX Design	Improved accessibility for all users [19]
Pediatric Care	Healthcare	N/A	Ayurveda & Siddha	Improved childhood health outcomes [23]
Secure Cloud Management	IT	N/A	Zero Trust Architecture	Enhanced cloud security [22]
Composite Design	Engineering	N/A	Finite Element Analysis	Optimized mechanical properties [12]

The above table illustrates live examples from different industries where contemporary technologies have been utilized for improved results. For instance, IT cloud migration strategies like those of Amazon

have immensely enhanced scalability and cost-effectiveness using AWS and cloud computing technologies [9]. A second instance is authenticated mobile system security, where Google has implemented blockchain technology to enhance user trust and security in private resource data [14]. At the data management level, businesses such as IBM have implemented big data technologies such as Hadoop and Spark, resulting in more efficient data processing and analysis and hence enabling data-driven decision-making [8]. In the online retail market, Walmart has leveraged AI and big data analytics to enhance UX, thus boosting customer interaction and sales [7]. Moreover, the Industrial IoT has been supported by Siemens through the addition of fog computing, which strengthens the security of industrial systems and devices [10]. Mind-body research, specifically the application of Kundalini Yoga, has been demonstrated to have beneficial effects on neuroplasticity as well as mental health outcomes [11]. Sarah Zaheer within the e-commerce sector has pointed out personalized UX design based on data analytics, expounding on how customized interfaces can enhance user engagement and decision-making [16]. Shifting to cloud security, Microsoft has introduced zero trust architectures, which immensely boost the security of cloud-based services by blocking unauthorized access and addressing vulnerabilities [22]. In health, the application of psychedelics in the treatment of mental illness has been investigated, with findings that incorporating such therapies into conventional therapies results in improved overall patient outcomes [15]. In addition, Ayurvedic principles are being applied to enhance gut health, as in the research of Nagarjuna Reddy Aturi, who examines the benefits of diets based on Ayurvedic principles for contemporary health [21]. In edge computing, Google is minimizing latency and resource utilization for IoT use cases by combining cloud and edge technology to process data faster and eliminate delays [24]. Similarly, inclusive digital access as a priority area for UX design is also being advocated with Sarah Zaheer urging more digital formats to include all and make it accessible for the disability community [19]. Integrating Siddha and Ayurvedic forms of medicine into the field of pediatrics brings integrated management to the childhood illnesses, promoting wellness and healthier condition for children [23]. Lastly, heterogeneous database schema evolution using AI has been a notable shift for organizations handling complex data environments, improving responsiveness and efficiency in data management [17]. Serverless computing has also been experimented with to reduce costs and scalability in existing application designs, improving performance without the heavy infrastructure costs [20]. These examples, based in various industries and applications, illustrate the path of technology and research coming together to offer innovative solutions in diverse markets.



Fig 1: Zero trust Security [4]

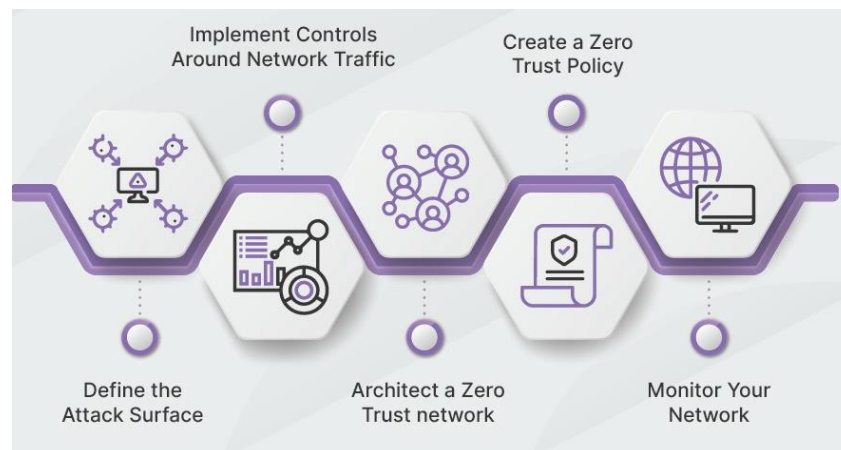


Fig 2: Steps to zero trust implementation [5]

V.CONCLUSION

The federated learning at the forefront of privacy-preserving, secure AI model training for distributed systems, there is an imperative to ensure that these pipelines are designed with robust security and compliance controls. In this essay, an AI pipeline design pattern is proposed unifying the top essentials of Zero Trust architecture by imposing per-service authentication, whereby every one of the interactions of microservices with cloud-native entities gets identity-authenticated across AWS, Azure, and GCP cloud infrastructures. Further, the pattern includes end-to-end encryption-in-transit with TLS 1.3 and mTLS for encrypting data-in-motion between computation nodes, cloud storage, and training nodes. Apart from operation and security transparency, the pipeline involves ongoing monitoring and logging with cloud-native technologies like AWS CloudTrail, Azure Monitor, and Google Cloud Operations Suite. The same offers real-time anomaly detection, forensic auditing, and compliance auditing. Apart from that, the blueprint facilitates micro-segmentation to reduce the attack surface by logically segregating the workload based on context, sensitivity, and training roles. By integrating these controls, the projected AI pipeline provides federated learning operations secure, regulatory compliant, reducing cyber threat, and cloud-native AI deployment industry best practice compliant. With federated models

increasingly being the core of the healthcare, financial, and defense industries, this template is an initial move towards trusted, scaleable, interoperable AI solution across multi-cloud

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