Chaos Under Control: Addressing Cloud Infrastructure Drift | Firefly

Chapter 5

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Learning Objectives

- Run terraform plan to surface manual changes made outside of Terraform
- Read drift diffs and decide whether to re-apply or import the change
- Use terraform import to bring an unmanaged cloud resource under state control
- Query terraform state list and terraform state show to audit resource attributes
- Write a lifecycle precondition block that enforces minimum GPU instance specifications

Why Drift Happens in ML Infrastructure

- The trigger is almost always urgency.
- A training job OOMs at 2 AM.

Reading Drift in terraform plan Output

- terraform plan is your primary drift detector.
- When it finds a discrepancy, it prints a dedicated header before the change summary:
- The left side is what Terraform recorded; the right side is what the cloud provider reports now.

Making the Reconcile Decision

- When drift is detected, you face a binary choice.
- Re-apply the Terraform definition.
- Leave the configuration as-is and run terraform apply.
- Accept the manual change.

Continue Learning

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